

The recantation of Thomas Topley.

All Christen men beware of consentyng to Stra-
mus tables, for by consentyng to them, they haue
caused me to (hynke in my fayth that I promised to
God at my Christenyng by my witnesses, first, as
touchyng these fables, I read in Colloquium by the
instruction of Syr Richard fore, of certayne Dil-
grimes, which (as the booke doth say) made a vowe
to go to S. James, & as they went, one of them dyed
& he desired his felowes to salute S. James in his
name: and an other dyed homeward, and he desired
that they would salute his wife and his childe, and
that they dyed at florence, & his felow sayd he sup-
posed that he was in heauen, and yet he sayd that he
was a great lye. Thus I misled of these opinions
so greatly, that my mynde was almost withdrawne
from deuotion to Sautes. Forwithstandyng I con-
fessed that the diuine seruice of them was very good,
and is though I haue not had such sweetnesse in it
as I should haue had, because of such fables, & also
because of other foolish pastimes, as dauncing, tennis
and such other, which I thinke haue bene great oc-
casions that the goodnes of God hath bene voyde in
me, and vice in strenght.

Moreover, it foryned thus about halfe a yere a
goe, that the sayd Syr Richard went forth and desi-
red me to serue his Cure for him, and as I was in
his churche, I found a certayne booke called wickeliffes
wicket, whereby I felt in my conscience a great wa-
uering for the tyme that I did read upon it, and af-
terward also when I remembred it, it wounded my
conscience very sore. Neuerthelesse I consented not
to it, until I had heard him preach, and that was up-
on S. Anthonys day: yet my mynde was still much
troubled with the sayd booke ( which did make the
Sacrament of Christs body in forme of bread, but
a remembraunce of Christs passion) till I heard Syr
Ayles Couerdale preach, and then my mynde was
sore withdrawne from that blessed Sacrament, in so
much that I toke it then but for the remembraunce
of Christs body. Thus haue I wretchedly wrap-
ped my soule with faine, for because I haue not bene
steadfast in y holy order that God hath called me vn-
to by Baptisme, neither in y holy order that God &
S. Angulime hath called me to by my Religion, &c.

Furthermore he sayd and confessed, that in the
Lent last past, as he was walkyng in the felde at
Bumstede with Syr Ayles Couerdale late frer of
the same order, goyng in y habite of a secular Priest,
which had preached the iiii. Sunday in Lent at Bū-
stede, they did comon together of Statinus works.

and also vpon confession: the which Syr Ayles sayd
& did hold, that it was sufficient for a man to be con-
fite for his finnes betwixt God and his confidence,
without confession made to a Priest: which opinion
this respondent thought to be true and did affirme
and hold the same at that tyme. Also he sayd that at
the sayd Sermon made by the said Syr Ayles Co-
uerdale at Bumstede, he heard him preach agaynst
worthyping of Images in the Church, sayng and
preachyng that men in no wise should honour or
worthyp the: which likewise he thought to be true,
because he had no learnyng to defend it.

with this Topley I may also toyne
William Gardiner one of the same or-
der and house of Clare, who likewise
by y motion of the said Rich. Fore Cu-
rate of Bumstede, & by the wayng him
certayne Bookes to read was brought
likewise to the lyke learnyng & iudge-
ment, and was for the same abiured by
Lutbert Byth, the same yere, 1528.

This Richard and his wife were
fauourers of Gods word, and had ben
troubled for the same of log tyme. They
came from Salisbury to Bostede by
reason of persecution, where they con-
tinued a good space. At length by rest of
good men, they began to be suspected, &
specially for a booke of wickeliffes wic-
ket whiche was in their house, they
were conuenced before Stokely By-
shop of London, and there abiured.

So great was the trouble of those times, that it would
ouercharge any story to recite the names of all the, whiche
during those bitter dayes before the comyng in of Queene
Anne, either were driven out of the Realme, or were cast
out of their goodes and houses, or brought to open shame
by aburation. Such decrees and Injunctions then were
set forth by the Bishops, such lawes and proclamations
were prouided, such watch and narrow searche was used,
such wayes were taken by force of othe to make one decee
an other so subtilly, that vnicth any good mā could or did
escape their handes, but either his name was known, or
eis his person was takē. Yet neuerthelesse so mightely the
power of Gods Gospell did worke in the hartes of good
men, that the nūber of them did nothyng licken for all this
violence or policie of the aduersaries, but rather increased
in such sort, as our story almost sufficeth not to recite y
particular names of all and singular such as then ground vnder
the same Crosse of affliction and persecution of those
dayes: as of which number were these.

- Arthur.
- Geffray Lome.
- John Tibold, his mother, his wife, his two sonnes, and his two daughters.
- Edmond Tibold, and his wife.
- Henry Butcher, and his wife.
- William Butcher, and his wife.
- George Preshon, and his wife.
- Ioane Smith, widow.
- Robert Smith, her sonne.

- Richard Smith, her sonne.
- Margaret Smith, her daughter.
- Elizabeth Smith, her daughter.
- Rob. Hempstede, and his wife.
- Tho. Hempstede, and his wife.
- John Hempstede, his sonne.
- Robert fayre.
- William Chatwals.
- Ioane Smith widow, otherwife called Agnes widow.

- John her sonne.
- Thomas her sonne.
- Christopher her sonne.
- Alyce her daughter.
- Ioane her daughter.
- John Wiggen.
- Nicholas Holdens wife.
- Alyce Shypwright.
- Henry Browne.
- John Craneford.

All these were of the towne of Bumstede, who being
detected by Syr Richard fore their Curate, and partly by
Tibold, were brought vp to the Bishop of London, and
all put together in one house, to the number of xxxv. to be

examined and abiured by the sayd Bishop.
Moreover, in other townes about Suffolke and Es-
sex, other also were detected, as in the towne of Byzbroke,
these following.

- Isabell Choote widow.
- John Choote her sonne.
- William Choote her sonne.
- Christopher Choote her sonne.
- Robert Choote her sonne.
- Margaret Choote her daughter.
- Katherine her mayde.
- Thomas Choote, and his wife.
- Haruy, and his wife.
- Christopher Rauen, and his wife.
- John Chapman, his seruant.
- Richard Chapman, his seruant, and brother to John Chapman.

- Agnes his daughter.
- Thomas his sonne.
- Bateman, and his wife.
- John Smith, and his wife.
- Thomas Butcher, and his wife.
- Robert Catlyn, a sponer maker.
- Christmas, and his wife.
- William Bechwith, his wife, and

- his two sonnes.
- John Pickas, and his wife.
- William Pickas, his brother.
- Girling, his wife, & his daughter.
- Mathewes wife.
- Johnson, his wife, and his son.
- Thomas Hilles.
- Roger Tanner.

who remaineth yet alyue, & hath bene of a long tyme a great harboure
of many good men & women that were in trouble & distresse, & recieued the
to his house, as Tho. Ware, Simon Smith, the Priestes wife, Roger Tan-
ner, with a nūber mo, which ye may see & reade in our first edition, pa. 4. 19.

him his cap to kneele vpon. For the which the boy immed-
diately was taken into the Westry, and there vnumercifully
beaten for his mercy shewed to the poore penitent.

Touchyng this Richard Chapman, this by the way
is to be noted, that as he was in his coate and shyrts enjoy-
ned bare head, bare foote, and bare legges, to go before the
proceden, and to kneele vpon the cold steyns in the Church
all the Sermon tyme, a litle ladde seeing him kneele vpon
the cold stone with his bare knees, & hauing pitie on him,
came to him, and hauing nothing else to geue him, brought

Besides these, diuers other were about London, Col-
chester, and other places also partakers of the same Crosse
and affliction for the like cause of the Gospell, in whiche
number cometh in these which hereafter followe.

Vertical text on the left margin: E. of cp 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Tyranner make Ma-
tyes.

M. Laynes
preacheth
gaynst Pil-
grimages.

A Fryer
maried.

Myles O
uerdale.

The re-
canta-
tion of
Thomas
Topley.

Wickeliffes
wicket.

Miles Co-
uerdale.

M. Cour-
tade.

Persons of
Bumstede.

Miles Choote
widow.

John Chap-
man.

John Chap-
man.