

THE NORWICH CONSPIRACY OF 1570.

COMMUNICATED BY

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IN 1565 the city was in much distress by the decay of the worstead manufacture, and many houses were left tenantless in consequence. The Mayor, Sheriffs, &c., waited upon Thomas Duke of Norfolk, who was then at his palace in the city, and in consultation with his Grace it was resolved to invite divers strangers of the Low Countries, who had fled to London and Sandwich for refuge from the persecution of the Duke of Alva, to dwell in the city; and they desired the Duke of Norfolk to intercede with the Queen to grant her royal license for the same. In the Chamberlain's Account-Book of the same year is the following entry: "By a license from the Queen's Majesty, it was allowed that 300 Strangers of the Low Country in Flanders should dwell within this City, and exercise such sciences and occupations as are not used or exercised in the same City." It appears that their manufacture of bayes, sayes, arras, mockades, &c., flourished so exceedingly, that in the course of five years, by the continual arrival of fresh strangers, their numbers increased to 3000. The Dutch congregation had the choir of the church of the Black Friars, and the Walloon or French congregation the church of St. Mary the Less, near Tombland, assigned to them for their religious assemblies.

In the Chamberlain's Book for 1570 is this entry: "About the end of July was revealed by one Master Hellmes of a

certain Conspiracy of certeyn Gent., pretendynge in makynge an insurreccion to expulse the strangers oute of the Citye and Realme. The chieftaynes wer John Thockmorten, George Redman, John Apleyerde, and Naller, w^t others who by commandement from the honorable Lords of the Counsell wer apprehended, empresoned, and after executed; whose practizes (though they had not that successe they looked for) pretended to have begon at Harlston, Bongay, and Beccles, and also to have bene at Norwiche in suche a sodeyne as (at the Maior's feaste) to have taken the whoale cubbord of Plate to have maynteyned their enterpryse: But as god shortened some of their dayes, so also their purpose, and gave the Strangers (whom they hated) favoure and contynuance, w^t increase of benefyte in their labors and traffiques, as they grewe to great [welthe] and wer hable to vente their comodities and beganne to go abroade the Countrye to buye woole for their trades, and also to lade home weeklye by Cartes great quantities of fyne wolls, wherof their Marchantes had all the whole trade as also the whoale benefyte of the Comodities here made seased, so that nowe no trade was but of their Comodities. And also that wher they were not hable to vente, they had Brokers in everye parte of the Citye that receyved the Monye of Flanders and London Marchants, and all these thinges wer secretlye done in their Houses by reason that they had no sale haule appointed."

Amongst the Manuscripts in the British Museum is the following:—

MDLXX.

*Account of the Traitours condemned at
Norwich Assises in August 1570.
Apleyard, Throgmorton, Redman, &c.*

*A Letter to George Earl of Shrewsbury, dated at London
last of August 1570.*

MSS. Collect. Nat. Johnson, M.D.

The great Sitting is done at Norwich, and as I doe heare, viz., Apleyard, Throgmorton, Redman, and Another, are condempned to be hanged, drawne, and quartered, and Hobert and two more are condempned to perpetual imprisonment, with the loss of all their goods and lands during their lives. The four were condempned for High Treason, and the other for Reconcilement. They were charged of these 4 pointes, the destruction of the Queen's person; the imprisonment of my Ld. Keeper, my Lord Leycester, and Secretary Cecil; the setting at liberty out of the tower the Duke of Norfolk; and the banishment of all Strangers. There are many in trouble for speaking of seditious wordes. Metcalf said he would help the D. of Alva into Yarmouth, and to wash his handes in the Protestants blood. Marsham said that the Earle of Leicester had two children by the Queen, and for that he is condempned to loose both his eares, or to pay 100^{lb} presently. Chaplin said he hoped to see the D. of Norfolk King before Michaelmas next. Dr Story is at Archdeacon Watts his house in custody, beside Paules. Therleby the late Bishop of Ely died this last week at Lambeth.

Amongst the Corporation Papers is the following Schedule of the Deeds relating to the estates, &c. of George Redman, all of which possessions, on his being executed for high treason, were forfeited to the Crown, and the Queen gave them to the Great Hospital in St. Helen's, for charitable purposes. He was buried in St. Peter's Mancroft Church.

Thes Parcells of plate and wrightings hereafter mentioned, now taken and Racyved of Willm. Myller, Sheparde to George Redman, By Richarde Bate, one of the Shreves of Norwich, the xxiiijth of June, Anno 1570.

Imprimis, one Indenture of the Manno^r and foldecourse of Cringleforde, made from the Mayor, Shreves, and Commoⁿaltie of the Cittie of Norwiche, and sealyd by the coñon Seale of the same Cittie.

Item, one Ire of Attorney, in paper, made from Nicholas Crosman and Anne, his wyfe, to George Redman, to Receyve of John Aldriche, Thomas Parker, Thomas Pecke, & John Rede, cclcx fi. for the purchase of dyverse lands & teñts by them solde in Hethelde and other Townes.

Item, a Pooll dede made from Nicholas Pede, of Brandon next Burnham, to George Redman, of Cringleforde, of all his mesuages, Lands, teñts, medowes, fedings, pastures, bruerys, &c., in Cringleforde, Hethersett, Colney, and Cantley, in Norff.

Item, a powle Dede made from Richarde Lovedaye, of Waxham, and Thomas Cage, of Ipsewich, to George Redman, of Cringleforde, & to Edwarde ffysshar, of Cantley, in Norff., of all ther mesuages, lands, teñts, medowes, feadings, pastures, &c., in Kringelorde, Intwoode, & Colney, in Norff. & Eaton, in the Countie of the Cittie of Norwiche, or in any other towne nere adioynyng, w^{ch} late were Peter Rede.

Item, one Indenture in parchment, Sealyd by the Lorde Henry Morley, to George Redman and John Lowthe, of his fouldecourse and shepes pasture in Hevingham, in the Countie of Norff.

Item, one powle Dede bering date the vth daye of September, Anno. xj Elizabeth Regine, made from Richard Loveday, of Waxham, and Thomas Cage, of Ipsewiche, of the capitall meswage, with the edefices & appurteñces in Cringleforde somtyme in the occupacõn of Philipp Cooke, &c.

Item, one obligacōn wherein Peter Rede, of Gymyngham, stode bounde to George Redman in vj^e pounds.

Item, one Release made from Nicholas Pede, of Brandon, to George Redman.

Item, one Release made from Anne Rede, of Gemyngham, to George Redman.

Item, one cōpye of the Courte (Roll) made from Willm. frosdyke, wherby the same Willm. surrenderyd all the tytell that he had of certeyne lands in Cringleford.

PLATE.

Imps, one Standing Cupp with a coṽ^r, all gilte.

Item, one pott with coṽ^r, all gylte.

Item, one Salte with a coṽ^r, parcell gylt.

Item, xx^{ty} Sylver Spones with knoppes.

Append. ad J. Leland's Collectanea, p. 1, 2^a.

Certayne versis, writtene by Thom. Brooke,* Gentleman, in the tyme of his imprysonment, the daye before his deathe, who sufferyd at Norwich, the 30 of August, 1570.

All languishing I lye,
 And death doth make me thrall,
 To cares which death shall sone cut of,
 And sett me quyt of all.
 Yett feble fleshe would faynt
 To feale so sharpe a fyght,
 Save fayth in Christ doth comfort me,
 And fleithe such fancy quyght.

* Thomas Brooke resided at Rollesby, Norfolk.

For fyndyng forth howe frayle
 Eache worldly state doth stande,
 I hould hym blyst that, fearing God,
 Is redd of such a band.
 For he that longest lyves,
 And Nestor's yeares doth gayne,
 Hath so much more accompte to make,
 And fyndyth Lyfe but vayne.
 What cawse ys ther to quayle?
 I called am before
 To tast the Joyes, which Christ 'is bloode
 Hath bowght and layde in store.
 No, no! no greter Joye
 Can eny hart posses,
 Then through the death to gayne a lyfe
 Wyth hym in blyssednes:
 Who sende the Quene long lyfe,
 Much Joye & contries peace,
 Her Cowncell health, hyr fryndes good lucke,
 To all ther Joyes increase.
 Thus puttyng uppe my greives,
 I grownde my lyfe on God,
 And thanke hym with most humble hart,
 And mekely kysse his rodde.

Finis, quod Thomas Brooke.

Seane and allowyd accordyng to the Quenes Majestyes
 Injunction. God save the Quene.

☞ Imprynted at Norwich, in the Paryshe of Saynct Andrewe, by Anthony de Solempne, 1570.

The verses above are in the handwriting of John Kirkpatrick, together with the following:—

“N.B.—This is printed in said Appendix from a printed Copy remaining in the Bodleian Library, at Oxford, to shew

that y^e *art of printing* hath been practised much sooner at *Norwich* than some imagine.

“Anthony de la Solempne, or Solemne, Tipographus, came to England, with his wife and two children, from Brabant, A. D. 1567; and Albertus Christianus, Tipographus, from Holland, the same year.”

It appears that Anthony Solempne lived, in 1570, in St. Andrew's parish, but after that he must have been an inhabitant of St. John's Maddermarket, as his name frequently occurs in the overseer's book as a rate-payer in that parish.
