

XVII.

DR. LAYTON TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cott. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 125.]

Hit may please your goodnes to understonde that Bisshope this day prechede and declarede the kinges title varawell, and hade a gret audience, the churche full of people. One of the focares in his saide declaration openly callede hym fals knave, with other folisshe wordes. Hit was that folisshe felowe with the curlede hede, that knelyde in your way whan ye came forthe of the confessors chambre. I cannolesse do but set hym in prison, *ut pena ejus sit metus aliorum*. Yesterday I lernede many enormouse thynges againste Bisshope in the examination of the lay brederen; firste that Bisshope persuadyt two of the brederyn to have gone ther ways by nyght, and he hymself with them, and to thaccompliment of that they lakede but money to by the seculer apparell; further, that Bisshope wolde have persuadyt one of his lay brederen, a smyth, to have made a key for the dore, to have in the nyght tyme receyvide in wenches for hym and his felowe, and specially a wiffe of Uxbrige now dwellyng not far from the olde lady Darbie, nygh Uxbrige, wiche wiffe his olde customer hath bene many tymes at the graittes commonyng with the saide Bisshope, and muche he was desierouse to have hade hir conveyde in to hym. The saide Bisshope also persuadyt a nune, to whome he was confessor, *ad libidinem corporum perimplendam*, and thus he persuadyt hir in confession, makyng hir to beleve that whansoever and as oft as they shulde medle together, if she were immediatly affter confesede by hym, and towke of hym absolution, she shulde be clere forgyvyn of Gode, and hit shulde be none offence unto hir before Gode; and she write dyvers and sondrie letters unto hym of suche ther foliishenes and unthriftynes, and wolde have hade his

brother the smythe to have pullede owte a bare of yron of that windowe wheras ye examynede the lady abbas, that he myght have gone in to hir by nyght, and that same windowe was ther commonyng place by nyght. He perswadyt the sexten that he wolde be in his contemplacion in the churche by nyght, and by that meanes was many nyghtes in the churche talkyng with hir at the saide graite of the nunnes qwere, and ther was ther metyng place by nyght, besyddes ther day communication, as in confession. Hit were to long to declare all thynges of hym that I have herde, wiche I suppos is trewe. This after none I intende to make further serche, bothe of sum of the brederen and sum also of the sisters, for suche lyke matters; if I fynde any thynges apparant to be trewe, I shall, Gode willyng, therof certifye your mastershipe to morowe by vij. in the mornyng, and after this day I suppos ther wilbe no other thynges to be knowyn as yett here, for I have alrede examynede all the brederen, and many of them wolde gladly depart hens, and be ryght wery of ther habite: suche religion and faynede sanctitie Gode save me fro! If Mr. Bedyll had bene here a frear and of Bissshops counsell, he wolde ryght well have helpede hym to have browght his matter to passe withoute brekyng up of any graite or yett cownterfetyng of keys, suche capacitie Gode hathe sende hym. From Sion, this Sonday xij. Decembris. By the spedy hande of your assurede poire preste,

RICHARD LAYTON.

XVIII.

BEDYLL TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cott. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 109.]

Right worshipful, after my moost hertie commendations, please it you to understand that maister Leighton and I have had muche