

# A Declaration of the Sentence and deposition of Elizabeth, the usurper and pretended Quene of Englande.

SIXTVS the fifte, by Gods prouidence the vniuersal pastor of Christes flocke, to vvhorne by perpetual and layvfull succession, apperteyneth the care and gouernemēt of the Catholike Churche, scinge the pittyfull calametyes vvhich heresy hath brought into the renoumed cuntryes of Englande and Irelande, of olde so famouse for vertue, Religion, & Christian obedience; And hovv at this present, through the impietie and peruerse gouernemēt of *Elizabeth* the pretended Quene, with a fewe her adhearētes, those kingdomes be brought not onely to a disordered and perillouse state in thiem selues, but are become as infected members, contagious and trublesome to the whole body of Christendome; And not hauinge in those parts the ordinary meanes, vvhich by the assistance of Christian Princes he hath in other prouinces, to remedy disorders, and kepe in obedience and ecclesiastical discipline the people, for that *Henry the 8.* late kinge of Englande, did of late yeares, by rebellion and reuolte from the See Apostolike, violently separete him selfe and his subiects from the comunion and societie of the christian comon vvelth; And *Elizabeth* the present usurper, doth continevve the same, vwith perturbation and perill of the cuntryes aboue her, shewinge her selfe obstinate and incorrigible in such sorte, that vwithout her depriuation and depositio there is no hope to reforme those states, nor kepe Christendome in perfect peace & trāquillity: Therfore our Holy Father, desyringe as his duty is, to prouide present & effectuall remedy, inspired by God for the vniuersall benefite of his Churche, moued by the particular affection vvhich him selfe and many his predecessors haue had to these natyons, And solicited by the Zelous and importunate instance of sundry the most principall persones of the same, hath dealt earneſtly vwith diuers Princes, and specially vwith the mighty and potent Kinge *Catholike of Spaine*, for the reuerence vvhich he beareth to the See Apostolike, for the olde Amity betwene his house and the Croune of England, for the ſpecyall loue which he hath shewed to the Catholikes of those places, for the obteyninge of peace and quietnesse in his cuntryes adioyninge, for the augmentinge and increase of the Catholike faith, and finally for the vniuersall benefite of all Europe; that he will employe thoſe forces which almighty God hath giuen him, to the deposition of this woman, and correctiō of her complices, ſo wicked and noysome to the worldes and to the reformation and pacification of these kingdomes, vvhence ſo greate good, and ſo manifold publike commodities, are like to ensue.

AND to noteſy to the vworld the iuſtice of this ac̄te, and giue full ſatisfaction to the ſubiects of those kingdomes and others vwholoeuer, and finally to mañyſt Gods iudgements vpon ſinne; his Holynes hath thought good, together vwith the declaratory ſentence of this vwoman's chaſticiement, to publish also the cauſes, vvhich haue moued him to proceſe againſt her in this ſorte. FIRST for that ſhe is an Heretike, and Schismatike, excommunicated by two his Holines predeceſſors; obſtinate in diſobedience to God and the See Apostolike; preſuminge to take vpon her, contrary to nature, reaſon, and all lauves both of God and man, ſupreme iurifidiction and ſpirituall auſtority ouer mens ſoules. SECONDLY for that ſhe is a Baſtard, conceyued and borne by inceſtuous adulterie, and therfore vncapable of the Kingdome, avſwell by the ſeuerall ſentences of *Clement the 7.* and *Paule the 5.* of bleſſed memory, as by the publike declaration of Kinge *Henry* him ſelfe. THIRDLY for vſurpinge the Croune vwithout right, hauinge the impediments mentioned, and contrary to the auncyent acorde made betwene the See Apostolike and the realme of England, vpon reconciliation of the ſame after the death of *S.Thomas of Canterbury*, in the time of *Henry the ſecond*, that none might be lawfull kinge or Quene therof, vwithout the approbation and conſent of the ſupreme Biſhopp: vvhich afterward vwas renewed by kinge *John*, and confirmed by othe, as a thinge moſt beneficiale to the kingdome, at requeſt and instance of the lordes and Comons of the ſame. AND FVRTHRE for that vwith ſacrilege and impietie, ſhe continevvethe violating the ſolemne Othe made at her coronation, to mainteyne and defende the auncyent priuileges and ecclesiastical liberties of the lande. FOR MANY and greuous iniuryes, extorſions, oppreſſions, and other wronges, done by her, and ſuffered to be done againſt the poore and innocent people of both cuntryes. FOR ſtirringe vp to ſedition and rebellion the ſubiects of other nations aboue her, againſt their lauful and naturall princes, to the deſtructiōn of infinite ſoules, ouerthrow and deſolation of moſt goodly ciſties and cuntryes. FOR harboringe and protectinge Heretikes, fugitiues, rebelles, and notorious malefactors, vwith greate iniury and prejuſcie of diuers comon vwealthes: and procuringe for the oppreſſiōn of Christendome and diſturbance of comon peace, to bringe in our potēt and cruell enemy *the Turke*. FOR ſo longe and barbarouſe perfecution of gods ſaints, afflictinge, ſpolyng, and imprisoneinge the ſacred Biſhops, tormentinge, and pittifully murtheringe numbers of holy Preiſts, and other catholike persons. FOR the vnnatural and iniuft imprisonment, and late cruelty uſed againſt the moſt gracyous Princesſe, *Mary Queen of Scotland*, vwho vnder promise and assurance of protection and ſuccor, came first into Englande. FOR abolishinge the treuy Catholike religion; prophaninge holy Sacramēts, Monasteryes, Churches, ſacred persons, Memories of ſaints, and vyhat els ſo euer might helpe or further to eternal ſaluation: And in the Comon vvelth, diſgraceing the auncyent Nobility, erecting base and vnvworthy persons to all the Ciuite and Ecclesiastical Dignetyes, ſellinge of lauves and iuſtice, And finally exercyſinge an absolute Tyrannie, with high offence to almighty God, oppreſſyon of the people, perdition of ſoules, and ruine of thoſe cuntryes.

WHEREFORE, theſe things beinge of ſuch nature & qualety, that ſome of them make her vnable to reigne, others declare her vneworthy to liue; His Holynesſe, in the almighty power of God, and by Apoſtolical auſtority to him committed, doth renewe the ſentence of his predeceſſors *Pius 5.* and *Gregorie the 13.* tooching the Excommunicatiōn and deposition of the ſad *Elizabeth*: and further a nevve doth Excommunicate, and deprimere her of all auſtority and Princeley dignety, and of all title and pretensiōn to the ſaid Croune and Kingdomes of England and Irelande; declaringe her to be illegittimate, and an vniuft vſurper of the ſame; And abſolute the people of thoſe ſtates, and other persons whatſoever, from all Obedience, Othe, and other bande of ſubieſt on vnto her, or to any other in her name. And further doth ſtraiely commaunde, vnder the indignation of almighty God, and payne of Excommunicatiōn, and the corporal puniſhment appoynted by the lawes, that none, of whatſoever condition or estate, after notice of theſe preſents, preſume to yeilde vnto her, Obedience, fauor, or other ſuccurſe, But that they and euerie of them concurre by all meanes poſſible to her chaſticiement. To the ende, that ſhe which ſo many wayes hath forsaken God and his Churche, beinge now deſtitute of wordly comforde, and abandoned of all, may acknowledge her offence, and humbly ſubmitt her ſelfe to the iudgements of the highest.

BE IT THEREFORE notedy to the inhabitants of the ſaid Cuntryes, and to all other persons, that they obſerue diligenty the premitiſes, withdrawinge all ſuccor publike and priuate, from the party purſued and her adherents, after they ſhall haue knowlege of this preſent: And that forthwith they vnite them ſelues to the Catholike army conducted by the moſt noble and victoriouſ Prince, *Alexander Farnesius, Duke of Parma and Placentia*, in name of his Maieſty, with the forces that eche one can procure, to helpe and coccurre as ys aforesaid (yf nede ſhall be) to the deposition and chaſticiement of the ſaid persons, and reſtitutiōn of the holy Catholike faith. Signyfenge to thoſe which ſhall doe the contrary or refufe to doe this here comaunded, that they ſhall not escape condigne puniſhment.

MOREOVER BE IT KNOWNEN that the intention of his Holynesſe, of the Kinge Catholike, and the Duke his highnesſe in this enterpriſe, ys not to inuade and conqueſte theſe kingdomes; chaunge lawes, preuileges or cuſtomes; bereave of liberty or liuely hoode any man (other then rebels and obſtinate persons) or make mutation in any thinge, except ſuche, as by comon accordē, betwene his Holynesſe, his Catholike maieſty, and the ſtates of the lande, ſhalbe thought neceſſary, for the reſtituſion and continuance of the Catholike Religion, and punishment of the vſurper and her adhearents. Affirmyng all men, that the controuſyſes which may arife by the depriuation of this woman, or vpon other cauſe, eyther betwene particular partyes, or touching the ſuccesſion to the Croune, or betwene the Churche and Comon vvelthe, or in other wife whatſoever, ſhalbe decyded and determined wholy accordanſe to iuſtice and Christian equity without iniury or prejuſcie to any person. AND there ſhall not onely due care be had, to ſue from ſpoyle the Catholikes of theſe cuntryes, which haue ſo longe endurē, but mercy alſo ſhewē to ſuch penitent persons, as ſubmitt them ſelues to the Capitan generall of this army. Yea for ſo much as infor‐mation ys giuen, that there be many, which onely of ignorance or feare be fallen from the fayth, and yet notwithstandinge are taken for heretikes; Neyther ys yt purpoſed, preſently to puniſh any ſuſh persons, but to ſupporte them with clemency, till by conference with lerned men and better conſideration, they may be informed of the truth, if they doe not ſhew them ſelues obſtinate.

TO PREVENT also the ſheadinge of Christiane bloode, and ſpoyle of the cuntry, which might enſewe by the reſiſtance of ſome principall offendērs. Be it knowne by theſe preſents, that it ſhal not onely be lawfull for any person publike or priuate (ouer and beſides thoſe which haue vndertaken the enterpriſe) to areſte, put in holde, and deliuere vp vnto the Catholike parte, the ſaid vſurper, or any of her complices; But alſo holden for very good ſeruice and moſt highly rewarded, accordinge to the qualety and condition of the partyes ſo deliuereſt. And in like maner, all others, which here to fore haue aſſiſted, or heraſter ſhall haue helped and concur to the punishment of the offendērs, and to the eſtabliſhment of Catholike Religion in theſe prouinceſ, ſhall receyue that aduaancement of honor and estate which their good and faithful ſeruice to the comon welthe ſhall require, in which, reſpecte ſhalbe uſed, to preſerue the auncyent and honora‐ble famelyes of the lande, in as muſh as ys poſſible. AND finally by theſe preſents, ſie paſſage ys graunted to ſuch as wil reſorte to the catholike campe, to bri‐ge viſtuals, munition, or other neceſſaryes; promisinge liberall paymet for all ſuſh things, as ſhalbe received from the ſeruice of the army. Exhorting withall and ſtraiely commaunding, that al men accordinge to theiſe force and ability, be redy and diligent to aſſiſte here in; to the ende no occaſion be giuen to vſe violence, or to puniſh ſuſh persons as ſhall neglect this comaundement.

Our ſaid holiſt, of his benignet, and fauor to this enterpriſe, out of the ſpirituall treasures of the Churche, committed to his cuſtody and diſpenſation, graunteſt moſt liberally, to alſuch as aſſiſt, concur, or helpe in any wife, to the deposition and punishment of the abouenamed persons, and to the reformation of theſe two Cuntryes, Plenary Indulgence and perdon of all their ſinnes, beinge dueſy penitent, contrite, and confeſſed, accordinge to the law of God, and vſual cuſtome of Christian people.