

And by occasion therof were diuers of his next neighbours barnes burnt also. Upon which netwes brought vnto hym to the court, he wrote to the lady his wife this letter folowing.

The copy of the letter.

Mistres Alyce, in my most hartly wise, I recommend me to you. And whereas I am enfourmed by my son Heron, of the losse of our barnes and our neighbours also, to all the cozne that was therein, albeit (sauiug gods pleasure) it is grete pitie of so much good cozne lost, yet sith it hath liked hym to sende vs such a chaunce, we must & are bounden, not only to be content, but also to be glad of his visitacio. He sent vs all that we haue losse: & sith he hath by such a chaunce, taken it away againe, his pleasure be fulfilled. Let vs neuer grudge ther at, but take it in good woꝛth, and hartely thank him, as well foꝛ aduersitie as foꝛ prosperite. And par aduenture we haue moꝛe cause to thank him foꝛ our losse, then foꝛ our winning. Foꝛ his wisdom better seeth what is good foꝛ vs then we do our selues. Therfoꝛe I pray you be of good chere, & take all the howfold with you to church, and there thanke god, both foꝛ that he hath giuen vs, and foꝛ that he hath taken fro vs, and foꝛ that he hath left vs which if it please hym, he can encrease when he will. And if it please hym to, leaue vs yet lesse, at his pleasure be it. I praye you to make some good ensearche what my poore neighbours haue losse, and bidde them take no thought therfoꝛe: foꝛ I hold not leaue my self a sponer, there shal no poore neighbour of mine, bere no losse by any chaunce happened in my house. I pray you be with my children & your household merry in god. And deuise some what w your frendes, what waye wer best to take, foꝛ pꝛouisiõ to be made foꝛ cozne foꝛ our household, and foꝛ sede thys yere comming, if ye thinke it good that we kepe the ground still in our handes. And whether ye thinke it good & we so shall do oꝛ not, yet I think it were not best sodenlye thus to leaue it all by, & to put away our folk of our farme, till we haue somwhat aduised vs theron. Howbeit if we haue moꝛe nowe then ye shall nede, & which can get the other matters ye may then discharge vs of them. But I would not that any man wer sodenly sent away he wote nere wether. At my

coming hither. I perceiued none other, but that I hold ray still with þingis grace. But now I shal (I think) because of this chaunce, get leaue this next weke to come home and se you: and then shall we further deupse together vpon all thinges, what order shalbe best to take. And thus as hartely fare you well with all our children as ye can wishe. At Woodstok the thirde daye of September by the hand of.

Your louing husbände
Thomas More knight

Str Thomas More being lord Chancellor of England, gaue ouer that office (by his great sute & labour) the .xvi. day of may, in the yere of our lord god a. 1532. and in the .xxiii. yere of the raigne of king Henry the eight. And after in that somer, he wrote an epitaphy in latin, and caused it to be written by his tombe of stone, which himself (while he was lord Chaceller) had caused to be made in his parish church of Chelsey (where he dwelled) thre miles fro London. The copie of which epitaphy here foloweth.

Thomas Morus vrbe Londinēsi, familia nō celebri, sed honesta natus, in litteris vtcunq; versat⁹ quū & causas aliquot annos iuuenis egisset in foro, & in vrbe sua pro Shyreuo ius dixisset, ab imictissimo rege Hērico octauo (cui vni regnōmniū gloria prius in audita cōtigit, vt fidei defesor qualē & gladio se & calamo vero prestit, merito vocaretur) adscit⁹ in aulam est, delectusq; in consilium, & creatus eques, pro quaestor primum, post Cancellarius Lancastrie, tandē Anglie miro principis fauore factus est. Sed interim in publico regni senatu lectus est orator populi, preterea legatus Regis nonnuncq; fuit, alias alibi: postremo vero Cameraciacomes & collegaiunctus principi le-

XX.ii. gationis

Agationis, Cuthberto Lunjullo iure
Londinēsi mox Duueluēsi epif-
copo, quo viro vix habes orbis hodie
quicquā eruditius, prudentius, me-
lius. Ibi inter sumos orbis Christi-
ani monarchas rursus refecta fœde-
ra, redditamq; mundo diu desidera-
tam pacem, & lætissimus vidit &
legatus interfuit.

Quam superi pacē firment faxintq;
perennem.

BIn hoc officiorum vel honorū cursu
quū ita versaretur, vt neq; princeps
optimus operā eius improbaret, neq;
nobilib⁹ esset iniucund⁹
populo, furibus autem homicidis,
hæreticisq; molestus, pater ei⁹ tandē
Ioannes Mor⁹ eques, & in eum iu-
dicum ordinem a principe cooptat⁹
qui regius confessus vocatur, homo
ciuilis, suavis, innocens, mitis, mise-
ricors, equus & integer, ānis quidē
gravis sed corpore plusquā p⁹ ætate
viuido, postquā eo productā sibi vi-
tam vidit vt filium videret Angliæ
Cancellarium, satis in terra iam se-
moratum ratus, libens emigravit in
celum. At filius defuncto patre, cui
quam diu supererat comparatus,
& iuuenis vocari consueuerat et ip-
se quoq; sibi videbatur, amissū iam

patre require, & cæcos ex, libe-
ros quatuor ac nepotes vndecī res-
piciens, apud animum suū cepit per-
senescere, Anxit hūc adfectū animi
subsecuta statim velut ad petentis
sonij signū peëtoris valetudo deteri-
or. Itaque mortaliū harū rerū satur,
quam rē a puero pene semper opta-
uerat, vt vltimos aliquot vite sue ā-
nos obtineret liberos, quibus huius
vite negotijs paulatī se subducēs, fu-
ture possēt immortalitē meditari, eā
rem tandē (si chptis annuat Deū)
indulgentissimi principis incōpara-
bili beneficio resignatis honoribus
impetrauit: atq; hoc sepulchrū sibi
quod mortis eū nuncquam cessantis
adrepere quotidie commonefaceret,
translatis huc prioris vxoris ossib⁹
extruendū curauit. Quod ne supstes
frustra sibi fecerit, nonne ingruentē
trepidus mortē horreat, sed deside-
rio Christi libens opetat, mortemq;
vt sibi non ōnino mortē sed ianuā
vitæ felicioris inueniat, ꝑcibus cum
pijs lectōr optime spirantem precor
defunctumque prosequare.

Under this epitaphy in prose, he cau-
sed to be writtē on his tobe, this latre
epitaphy in versis folowing, which
himself had made. xx. verses befoze. **D**

D
¶ Chara Thomæ iacet hic Ioanna vxorcula Mori,
Qui tumulum Alicie, hunc destino, quiq; mihi.
Vna mihi dedit hoc coniuncta virentibus annis,
Me vocet vt puer & trina puella patrem.
Altera priuignis (que gloria rara nouerçæ est)
Tam pia quam gnatis vix fuit vlla suis.
Altera sic mecū vixit, sic altera viuit,

Charior

A

*Charior incertum est, hæc sic an hæc fuerit.
O simul O iuncti poteramus viuere nos tres,
Quam bene si factum religioq; sinant.
At societ tumulus, societ nos obsecro cælum,
Sic mors, non potuit quod dare vita, dabit.*

The translations in english of the two epitaphies here befoze in latten.

Tomas Poze a Londoner bozne, of no noble famely, but of an honest stocke, somewhat brought up in learning, after that in his yong daies, he had been a pleader in the lawes of this hall certayne yeres, being one of the vnder shrieues of London, was of noble kinge Henry the eight (which alone of all kinges worthely deserued both with swoorde and penne, to be called the defender of the faith, a glozy afoze not herd of) called into the court, & chose one of the counsel, and made knight: the made first vnder treasurer of englande, after that Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and last of all (with great fauour of his Prince) lord Chaunceller of England. But in the meane season, he was chosen speker of the parlement, & besides was diuers times in dyuers places the kinges embassatoz, and last of all at Cameray (soined sclow and companion to Cuthbert Constal chief of that embassy than Bishop of London, and wythin a while after Bishop of Durham, who so excellet in learning wit and vertue, & the whole world scant hath at this daie any moze learned wiser or better) where he both ioyfully saw & was present embassatoz, when the legues betwene the chief Princes of christendome wer renewed againe and peace so long looked for restored to Christendome. Which peace oure lord stable and make perpetual.

When he had thus gone throughe thys course of offices or honours, & neither & gracious prince could disalow his doings, nor he was odious to the nobilite, nor vnpleasent to the people, but yet to theues, murderers & heretikes greuous, at laste John Poze hys father knight, and chosen of the Prince to be one of the iustices of the kynges benche a ciuil mā, pleasent, harmelesse gentil, pitifull, iust, & vncorrupted, in yeres old, but in body moze than foze his yeres lusty, after & he percesued his life so long lengthened, & he saw his sone lord Chaunceller

of Englande, thinking hymselfe nowe to haue liued long inough, gladly departed to god, his sone thā, his father being dead, to whome as long as he liued being compared, was went both to be called yong, & himself so thought to misting now his father departed, and being. liii. childze of his own, & of their offspringes xi. began in his own conceit to ware old. And this affect of his was increased, by a certayne sickly disposition of hys breast, cured by & by folowing, as a signe or toke of age creping vpon him. He therfoze irke and wery of worldly busines, giuing by his promotions, obtained at last by incomparable benefite of his most gentil prince (if it please god to fauour his enterpryse) & thing which fro a child in a maner alway he wished & desired, & he might haue some yeres of his life free, in which he litle & litle withdrawing himself fro the busines of this life, might continually remembre the immortallite of the lyfe to come. And he hath caused this to be made for himselfe (his firste wifes bones brought hither to) & might euery day put him in memozy of death that neuer ceaseth to crepe on hym. And & this to be made for him in his life time be not in vaine, nor that he fere death coming vpon him, but that he may willingly for the desire of Christ, die, & find death not bitter death to him, but & gate of a welthyer life, helpe hym (I besech you good reader) nowe with your prayers while he liueth, & when he is dead also.

Here lieth Ione & welbeloued wife of me Thomas Poze, who haue appointed this tombe for Alis my wife and me also, the one being coupled with me in matrimony, in my youthe brought me forth thre daughters & one sone, & other hath ben so good to my children (which is a rare praise in mothers i law) as scarce any could be better to her own. The one so liued with me, & the other nowe so lyueth, that it is doutfull whether thys or the other were derer vnto me. Oh howe well could we thre haue liued soined together in matrimony, if fortune and religion wolde haue suffred it. But I besech

££.iii.

seehe

¶ Seeke our lord that this tombe and hea-
uen may ioine vs together. So deathe

shall giue vs, that thyng that life could
not.

Here folow foure letters

which syr Thomas More wrote after he had gyuen
ouer the office of lord Chauncellour of England
and before he was imprisoned.

A letter written by sir Tho. More
to maister Thomas Cromwell (than
one of the kinges pryue counsell the
first day of february in h yere of our
lord god. 1533. after the computacion
of the church of England and in the
xxv. yere of the raigne of king Henry
the. viii.

Right woꝛshipfull in my moſte
harty wiſe I recomēd me vnto
you. Sir my coſyn William
Kastal hath enforzned me, that
your maſterſhip of your goodnes ſhewed
him, that it hath bene reported, y I haue
againſt y booke of certain articles (whi-
ch was late put foꝛth in print by h kynges
honoꝛable coun. l.) made an anſwere, &
deliuered it vnto my ſaid coſyn to print.
And albeit that he foꝛ his part truly de-
ſired it, yet becauſe he ſomewhat remai-
ned in doubt, whether your maſterſhip
gaue li therin ful credēs oꝛ not, he deli-
red me foꝛ his farther diſcharge to de-
clare you y very troth. ſir as help me god
neither my ſaid coſyn noꝛ any man els,
neuer had any boke of mine to print, one
oꝛ other, ſince the ſaid boke of h kynges
counſel came foꝛth. foꝛ oꝛ troth y laſt
boke y he printed of mine was that boke
that I made againſt an vnknowē here-
ſie which hath ſent over a woꝛke that
walketh in ouer many mens handes na-
med the Souper of the lord, againſt the
blessed ſacrament of the alter. My an-
ſwere whereunto albeit that the pꝛin-
ter (vnto ware to me dated) ſt Anno. 1534.
by which it ſemeth to be pꝛinted ſince
the feaſt of the circumſcion, yet was it
of very troth both made and pꝛinted &
many of them gone before Chꝛiſtmas.
And my ſelfe neuer eſpied the pꝛinters
ouerſight in the date, in moꝛe then thꝛee
wekes after. And this was in god ſaith
the laſt boke that my coſyn had of myne.
Which being true as of troth it ſhalbe
founde, ſuffiſe h foꝛ his declaracion in
this behalfe. As touching myne owne
ſelf, I ſhal ſay thus much farther, y on
my ſaith I neuer made any ſuch booke

noꝛ neuer thought to do. I red the ſaid
boke ones ouer and neuer moꝛe. But I
am foꝛ ones reading very ſarre of ſtrou
many thinges, whereof I would haue
metely ſuer knowledge, ere euer I wold
make an anſwere, though the matter &
the booke both, concerned the poꝛteſt mā
in a towne, & were of the ſimpleſt mans
making to. foꝛ of many thinges which
in that boke be touched, in ſome I know
not the lawe, & in ſome I knowe not the
fact. And therfoꝛe wold I neuer be ſo
childiſh noꝛ ſo plaiſe the pꝛoud arrogant
ſole, by whom ſo euer the booke hat bene
made, & to whom ſo euer the matter had
belonged, as to pꝛeſume to make an an-
ſwere to y boke, concerning the matter
whereof I neuer wer ſufficiently lerned
in the lawes, noꝛ fully enſtructed in the
factes. And thē while the matter pꝛtei-
ned vnto the kinges highnes, & the boke
pꝛoſelleth openly y it was made by hys
honoꝛable counſail, & by thē put in print
w his graces licens obtained therunto,
I verely truſt in god ſaith y of your god
mind toward me, though I neuer wꝛote
you woꝛde thereof, your ſelfe will both
think & ſay ſo much foꝛ me, that it were
a thing far vnlikelſe, y an anſwer ſhould
be made therunto to me. I wil by y grace
of almighty god, as long as it ſhal pleaſe
him to lend me life in this woꝛlde, in all
ſuch places (as I am of my duety to god
& the kinges grace bounde) truly ſay my
mind, & diſcharge my conſciēce, as be cometh
a poꝛe honeſt true mā, wher ſo euer
I ſhalbe by his grace commaūded. Yet
ſuerly if it ſhould happen any boke to coe
abꝛode in the name of hys grace oꝛ hys
honoꝛable counſail, if y boke to me ſemed
ſuch as my ſelfe wold not haue giuen
mine owne aduiſe to the making, yet
I know my boūden duety, to bere moꝛe
honour to my pꝛince, and moꝛe reuerēce
to his honoꝛable counſaile, than that it
coulede become me foꝛ many cauſes, to
make an anſwere vnto ſuch a boke, oꝛ to
counſail and aduiſe any mā els to do it.
And therfoꝛe as it is a thing y I neuer
dyd