

quitted their intended prey, and hastened towards us, surrounded the frigate, and raked her deck from all quarters. Her men were no longer able to keep their station; this gave us courage, and we prepared to board her. Twenty-five grenadiers from each galley were sent on this service. They met with no opposition at first, but hardly were they assembled on the deck, before they once again received an *English Salute*. The officers of the frigate, who were entrenched within the fore-castle, fired upon the boarders incessantly, and the rest of the crew doing similar execution through the gratings, at last cleared the ship. Langeron seemed to be foiled, and ordered another detachment to the attack, it made the attempt, but met with the same success. Provoked with such repeated failures, our commodore determined that our hatchets should lay open her decks and make the crew prisoners of war.

“After much difficulty and bloodshed, these orders were executed, and the seamen were obliged to surrender. The officers, who were yet in the fore-castle, stood it out for some time longer, but superiority of numbers compelled them also to lay down their arms. Thus were all the ship’s company prisoners, except the captain. He had taken refuge in the cabin; where from a small window in the door he fired upon them unremittingly, and declared, when called upon to surrender, that he would spill the last drop of his blood before he would see the inside of a French prison. The English officers, (who had been by this time conducted on board of our galley, and who afterwards acknowledged that their testimony was part of their orders) described the captain as a man quite fool-hardy—as one determined to *blow the frigate into the air*, rather than strike! and painted his resolution in such colors as made even their conquerors tremble.

The way to the powder room led through the cabin; therefore, as he had the execution of his threat fully in his power, we expected every moment to see the ship blown up, our prize and our prisoner both escape our hands, and we from being grappled to the vessel, suffer almost the same fate in the explosion. In this extremity, it was thought best to summon the captain in gentle terms, and to promise him the most respectful treatment if he would surrender. He only answered by firing as fast as possible.

“At length the last remedy was to be tried -- to select a few resolute men, and to take him dead or alive. For this purpose, a serjeant and twelve grenadiers were sent with bayonets fixed, to break open the cabin-door and if he would not give up arms, to run him through the body. The captain was prepared for every species of assault, and before the serjeant, who was at the head of his detachment, could execute his commission, the besieged shot him dead, and threatening the grenadiers with the same fate if they persisted, he had the satisfaction to see them take to flight. Their terror was so complete that they refused to renew the engagement, though led on by several of their officers; and the officers themselves recoiled at the entrance of the passage, and alleged as their excuse, that as they could advance but one at a time into the room, the English captain (whom they called the Devil) would kill them all one by one.

The captain named of this pusill-ave recourse sent to the ng to fire, e. He submit d sur- an-

der to me, for he alone amongst you has steadily stood his ground; and to him only will I resign my sword.

“The commodore was as surprised as delighted with the unexpected success of this embassy. Everything being arranged, the door of the cabin was opened, and its dauntless defender appeared to us in the person of a little hump-backed, pale-faced man, altogether as deformed in body as he was perfect in mind.—The Chevalier Langeron complimented him on his bravery, and added, that ‘his present captivity was but the for one of war, and that he should have no reason to regret being a prisoner.’

“I feel no regret,” replied the little captain; ‘my charge was the fleet of merchant-men, and duty called me to defend them, though at the expense of my vessel. I prolonged the engagement until I saw from my cabin window that all were safe within the mouth of the Thames; and to have held out longer would have been obstinacy not courage. In what light my services may be represented to my countrymen I know not, neither do I care. I might, perhaps, have had more honour of them, by saving her Majesty’s ship by flight; but this consolation remains, that though I have lost it and my own liberty together, I have served England faithfully; and while I enrich the public, and rescue her wealth from the grips of her enemies, I cannot consider myself unhappy. Your kind treatment of me may meet a return: my countrymen will pay my debt of gratitude; for the Power which now yields me to your hands may one day put you in theirs.”

“The noble boldness with which he expressed himself charmed the commodore; he returned his sword to him with these words: ‘Take sir a weapon which no man better deserves to wear! Forget that you are my prisoner but ever remember that we are friends.’

MARTIN LUTHER.

Martin Luther, “the plague of popery,” son of a miner at Eisleben, Saxony, was born in 1483. He received a learned education at Eisenach and Erfurt, and during his course of studies exhibited continual indications of uncommon genius, acuteness, and energy. As his mind was naturally susceptible of serious impressions, he entered an Augustinian convent; where he acquired great reputation, not only for piety, but for love of knowledge and unwearied application to study. The cause of his retirement is said to have been, that he was once struck by lightning, and his companion killed by his side by the same flash. He had been taught the scholastic philosophy which was in vogue in those days, and made considerable progress in it; but happening to find a copy of the Bible which lay neglected in the library of his monastery, he applied himself to the study of it with eagerness and assiduity; and increased his reputation for sanctity so much, that he was chosen professor first of philosophy, and afterward of theology, in Wittemberg on the Elbe, where Frederic elector of Saxony had founded a university.

Luther’s doubts respecting the scriptural character of the popedom originated in the atrocious wickedness which he witnessed while on a mission at Rome, to procure some additional immunities for his convent. His impressions were strengthened by his study of the Bible, and the writings of John Huss; and about the year 1515, he began partially to disseminate his newly adopted principles at Wittemberg.

While Luther continued to enjoy the highest reputation for sanctity and learning, Tetzel, a Dominican friar, visited Wittemberg in order to publish indulgences. Luther beheld his success with great concern; and having first inveighed against indulgences from the pulpit, he afterward published ninety-five theses, not as points fully established, but as subjects of inquiry and disputation. He appointed a day on which the learned were invited to impugn them. No opponent appeared. The theses spread over Germany with astonishing rapidity, and were read with the greatest eagerness.

Luther met with no opposition for some little time after he began to publish his new doctrines but it was not long before many zealous cham-

pions arose to defend those opinions with which the wealth and power of the Romish priests were so strictly connected. The court of Rome at first despised these disputes; but the attention of the pope being raised by the great success of the reformer, and the complaints of his adversaries, Luther was summoned, in July, 1518, to appear at Rome within sixty days. One of Luther’s adversaries, named Prierias, who had written against him, was appointed to examine and to decide upon his doctrines. The pope wrote at the same time to the elector of Saxony, beseeching him not to protect a man whose heretical and profane tenets were so shocking; and enjoined the provincial of the Augustinians by his authority to check the rashness of an arrogant monk, which brought disgrace upon their order, and gave offence and disturbance to the whole church.

From those letters and the appointment of his open enemy Prierias to be his judge, Luther easily saw what sentence he might expect at Rome, and therefore discovered the utmost solicitude to have his cause tried in Germany, before a less suspected tribunal. He wrote a submissive letter to the pope, in which he promised an unrestrained obedience to his will, for he then entertained no doubt of the divine original of the pope’s authority. Cajetan the pope’s legate in Germany, was appointed to hear and determine the cause. Luther appeared before him without hesitation. Cajetan thought it below his dignity to dispute the point with a person so much his inferior in rank. He therefore required him, by virtue of the power with which he was clothed, to retract the errors which he had uttered with regard to indulgences and nature of faith, to abstain for the future from the publication of new and dangerous opinions; and forbade him to enter his presence, unless he complied with what had been required of him.

That haughty and violent manner of proceeding, with some other circumstance, gave Luther’s friends such strong reasons to suspect that even the imperial safe conduct would not be able to protect him from the legate’s power and resentment, that they prevailed on him secretly to withdraw from Augsburg, where he had attended the legate, and to return to his own country.—Cajetan, enraged at Luther’s abrupt retreat, wrote to the elector of Saxony, requiring him, as he regarded the peace of the church or the authority of its head, either to send that seditious monk a prisoner to Rome, or to banish him out of his territories. Frederic, from political motives, had protected Luther, thinking he might be of use in checking the enormous power of the see of Rome; but though all Germany resounded with his fame, the elector had never admitted him into his presence. That demand made by the cardinal rendered it necessary to throw off his former reserve. He had been at great expense and bestowed much attention on founding a new university; and foreseeing how fatal a blow the removal of Luther would be to its reputation, he not only declined complying with either of the pope’s requests, but openly discovered concern for Luther’s safety.

The situation of Luther became daily more alarming. He knew well the motives which induced the elector to afford him protection, and that he could by no means depend on a continuance of his friendship. If he should be obliged to quit Saxony, he had no other asylum, and must stand exposed to whatever punishment the rage or bigotry of his enemies could inflict; and so ready were his adversaries to condemn him, that he had been declared a heretic at Rome before the expiration of the sixty days allowed him in the citation for making his appearance. Notwithstanding, he discovered no symptoms of timidity or remissness; but continued to vindicate his own conduct and opinions, and to inveigh against those of his adversaries with more vehemence. Being convinced, therefore, that the pope would soon proceed to the most violent measures against him, he appealed to a general council; which he affirmed to be the representative of the catholic church, and superior in power to the pope, who being a fallible man, might err, as Peter had done.

The court of Rome were assiduous to crush the author of the doctrines which gave them so much uneasiness. by the pope prior to Luther the virtuous and