

apparently no other guarantee than papal jurisdiction. Nor did he and others die in vain, who protested against moral laws being twisted and turned upside down by royal authority to satisfy lust and self-will." His conviction was a foregone conclusion, and the jury, fifteen minutes after retiring, returned a verdict of guilty; and sentence was pronounced by the chancellor, "according to the tenour of the new law."

As if his mind were disburdened, he then spoke freely what he thought of the law: "For the seven years that I have studied the matter, I have not read in any approved doctor of the Church that a temporal lord could or ought to be head of the spirituality." The chancellor, interrupting him, said: "What, More, you wish to be considered wiser and of better conscience than all the bishops and nobles of the realm?" To this More replied: "My lord, for one bishop of your opinion I have a hundred saints of mine; and for one parliament of yours, and God knows of what kind, I have all the General Councils for a thousand years, and for one kingdom, I have France and all the kingdoms of Christendom." He concluded his speech with these characteristically touching words: "More have I not to say, my lords, but that like the Blessed Apostle St. Paul, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, who was present and consenting to the death of the proto-martyr, St. Stephen, holding their clothes that stoned him to death, and yet they be now both twain holy saints in Heaven and there shall continue friends forever; so I verily trust and shall heartily pray that, though your lordships have been on earth my judges to condemnation, yet we may hereafter meet in Heaven merrily together to our everlasting salvation."

As was usual in the case of those condemned for treason, the edge of the axe was turned towards him as he was led from Westminster Hall, and the most touching scene awaited him on reaching the Tower wharf. His tenderly-loved daughter, Margaret Roper, was waiting where she knew he should pass before entering the Tower. As soon as she saw him, she reverently knelt to receive his blessing, and without thought for herself, passing through the midst of the throng of men, who with bills and halberts surrounded him, in the sight of all she clasped him round the neck, kissing him lovingly and repeatedly