

Psalme 128

The Church often (3. and much) impugned, is not ouercome. 4. Her perfecuters are deftroyed, 6. contemned, 8. and curfed.

The Church
ftil firme in
persecution.
The 6. key.

A gradual Canticle.

Often ^{a)}haue they impugned me ^{b)}from my youth,
let Ifrael now fay:
²Often haue they impugned me from my youth:
^{c)}but they haue not preuailed againft me.
³Sinners ^{d)}haue builded vpon my backe: they haue
^{e)}prolonged their iniquitie.
^{4 f)}Our iuft Lord wil cut the neckes of finners: ⁵ let
them al ^{g)}be confounded and ^{h)}turned backward, that
hate Sion.

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- ^a Ifrael vvhich is the Church of God, reioycing faith: that enimies haue often,
^b euen from the beginning of the world, persecuted me, as when Cain persecuted Abel, other wicked persecuted Seth, Enoch, Noe: the Chalders persecuted Abraham: the Ægyptians persecuted the Ifraelites: and fo in other generations.
^c But they haue neuer ouercome me. So the Pfalmift testifieth for al times past, & prophecieth the fame for times to come.
^d Perfecuters not being able to ouerthrow, or fuppreffe the Church, haue laide great weightie burdens of tribulations vpon her backe, which fhe hath patiently and ftrongly borne,
^e they haue ftill perfited, one forte after an other, but with longanimitie the Church hath ftood faft, and constantly paffed through al diftreffes. In moral fenfe finners build iniquitie vpon the back of the Church, yea and vpon Gods back, when they prefume to finne, trufting in the end to be abfolued by vertue of holie Sacraments leift in the Church. Likewife when they excufe their finnes, imputing the caufe to other creatures of God, vvherby they are allured. VVhich is in effect (faith S. Auguftin) to accufe God, and to build iniquities on Gods back, vvho made thofe creatures.
^f God therefore who is iuft, vvil at laft caft fuch prefumptuous finners from his back, and breake their ftiffe neckes:
^g then fhall they be confounded,
^h feparated eternally from God, become like fruitles, and vvithered gaffe, caft avay, defpifed, yea curfed of al, and bleffed by none, as the Prophet denounceth in the next verfes.

⁶ Let them be made as graffe in the toppes of houfes:
which is withered before it be plucked vp.

⁷ Wherof the reaper hath not filled his hand, and
he that gathereth the sheaues his befome.

⁸ And they fayd not that paffed by: The bleffing of
our Lord be vpon you: we haue bleffed you in the name
of our Lord.