

**MISTRESS
MARGERY. A TALE
OF THE LOLLARDS**

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Mistress Margery. A Tale of the Lollards by Emily Sarah Holt

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EMILY SARAH HOLT

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"THIS DID MANGKEY MANNELL GLORIFY THE LORD IN THE FIRES."—Page 171.

MISTRESS MARGERY.

A Tale of the Lollards.

BY

EMILY SARAH HOLT,
AUTHOR OF "MEMOIRS OF ROYAL LADIES."

"I fear no harm, with Thee at hand to bless;
Life hath no ills, and death no bitterness.
Where, Death, thy sting? Where, Grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou art with me."

—REV. H. F. LYVE.



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1868.

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PREFACE.

THE principal historical characters who appear in this story are Sastre and Archbishop Arundel. William Sastre (also called Sawtre) was originally a parish priest in London. Though for many years he was a fearless and uncompromising preacher of the truth, (so far as he knew it,) yet, when tried, Sastre at first exhibited that timidity which appears to have been one of the chief failings of Wycliffe himself. "When persecution arose, he was offended." He formally recanted before the Bishop of Norwich the opinions which he had maintained and

preached so faithfully before. But Sastre—like Cranmer, two hundred years later—bitterly mourned his criminal weakness. After his recantation, he gave such offence to the Council by again preaching the doctrines of grace, that he was once more brought before them ; and this time he continued faithful unto death, which he suffered on the 26th of February 1401.

Archbishop Arundel was that bitterest of all persecutors—a renegade. His own mind had at one time been impressed with Lollard views ; but his after conduct renders it evident that these doctrines had merely occupied his intellect, without in any respect influencing his heart. In 1394, when he was Archbishop of York, we find Arundel preaching a funeral sermon for Queen Anne of Bohemia, in which he highly commended her conduct in constantly reading the Bible in English. The

Queen possessed four English translations, which she had laid before Arundel, and had requested his judgment as to their respective fidelity. Arundel's reply was, that no fault could be found with any of them. Yet no sooner was this prelate raised to the See of Canterbury, within a very short period after he preached this sermon, than he enlisted himself, heart and soul, on the side of the persecution, and was, indeed, its moving cause and its principal abettor.

The Lollard persecution raged fiercely through the whole reign of Henry V., and may be said to have reached its height with the martyrdom of Lord Cobham, who was an attendant and personal friend of the King. This admirable man suffered in 1417. During the minority of Henry VI., two or three cases of persecution occur; but this gentle King, "the holy Henry," was not likely to lend