To our Catharytes or brethrene of the puritie as they call it, which frantickly have reported the Com(m)union of our booke to bere the face of a popishe Masse, whyles they beare the faces of etc.

The face of a popishe masse is the shew of the whole action therof w(i)th the instruments and other necessaries therunto app(er)tyninge.

And as much have we to saye for our publique prayers to God and confession of our synnes in the Church, against yo(u)r idle obiections and feble phantasies forged, proving them to be, as we do use them, neyther popish nor Jeweshe.

Ne yet we in our usynge of them to be eyther Jewes or

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1 Linked to the letter Bale sent to Ashley, aft 13 December 1554, Inner Temple Library, London, Petyt MSS, 538/47 fos 380r-v. See separate section on dating of this document. For Thomas Ashley, Garrett 73-4.
papistes prestes, preistes men or yet shavelinges, as yo(u) in yo(u)r madde frenesyes
have reported us.
It is not mete therfore we conte(m)pne so many helthesome rudiments of the
Christen Religion, as are afore mencyoned in our English booke of comon pra(yer)
made and app(ro)ved by so many learned men, and set fourthe by Gods authory(ty)
in a most Christian kinge. And to receyve and admyt the same agayne at yo(u)r hands
being but a few, w(i)thout lyke learninge and authoritie and how affected we know not.

What we are in yo(u)r sight

We be an Englishe congregation w(hi)ch is not of the puritie, we are they w(hi)ch
dryven out of Parydise and exyled for our synnes the of(f) springe of Ca(yn)
the fleshly children men and such as have offered the onely4
fruets of the earthe. We are they w(hi)ch have buylded the carnall cytie
of Enochia, the inventors of artes, the sturdie rebellious, the marryers
mens daughters, the unpure workers, the ymagners of evyll, the p(torn MS)
of iniquitie, the corruptors of the world, and those whome God ha(th)
provided the dilivey of destruction. We are the ungentle raven that w(as)
sent out of the shippe w(hi)ch tasting of the carreyne a broade returned not agayn.
We are the wretched publicans, such as not only yet behynd in England, but
here disparsed abroade in Germany, and spetially at Zurycke, yea, very J(ew?)
papistes, preistes, preistes men and shavelinges. For we cleave to carren and wil(l) (not?)
goe from it ye saye, we hold still that sup(er)stitious, papisticall lewde, lowsey
mangye, naughtie, filthie, shamfull and abhominable book of England

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3 'with popishe nor' crossed out in manuscript.
4 'children of' crossed out in manuscript.
by no true men but a sorte of false harlotts ye saye now nevertheless
racked, hunted, handeled, hanged, quartered, peeced, perboyled scorsted
and burned, all this have ye seene in us and our booke, by vertue of preach(ing),
alligoryes, eyther els at yo(u)r pleasures, transubstanciated us into them by ver(tue)
the same, for thus ye have very plesantly bothe iudged us\(^5\) and reporte(d).

What yo(u) are in yo(u)r syght
You are on the other syde, not as other men are, chefely not as they are w(hi)ch (?)have
any good will to that ungodly boke, as yo(u) take it, wherw(i)th unspotted cons(cience?)
could never yet agree because it cometh from the Englishe nation, and yo(u) (?)not
of counsell in puttinge fourth therof. Yo(u) are selected companye a fraterny(tie)
subscription and a brotherhode of the purytie, what though not of the congrayyte
fetch Gods glory from Utopia, or from some other strange lande. In para(?)
of the sprete ye remayne undefyled, innocent as Abell, ye offre the sute(?) of(ferings?)
ye buylld no cyttie, ye invent no artes, ye marry not w(i)th menis daughters ye (?)have
(fo. 473v) no styffe necked rebells, no ymagyners of evyll, no planters of iniquitie, no
corrupters of the world. But walke all in the sprete, seekeinge only for the glory
of God, the puritie of his worde, and synceritye of his scriptures, that
it is great marveile that ye are not taken up w(i)th Henoch and no more seene
on the earth. But this may chance to be an impedyment therof, that yo(u)
prophecye is not yet all wrytten, eyther els that ye lacke that fyerrye
charett w(hi)ch should carry yo(u) above the clowdes.
In the mean tyme ye have taken Noes shippe for yo(u)r safegarde upon
the waters. And the floude ones fynished, ye goe not abroad as did the ranginge

\(^5\) 'into' crossed out in manuscript.
raven, to seke carryen, but properly, fynely and obediently ye returne agayne
lyke the frendly, gentle and symperinge turtle dove.
Ye thank God of it that yo(u) are not as other men are, specially the wretched
publycanes of England, whi(ch have neither so much grace, wytte, learninge,
nor yet godlynes as yo(u) have. They are extorcioners, by robbinge God of his
high honour. They are uniust dealers in breakinge their christian p(ro)fession.
They are ⁶ also advoulerers in com(m)ytinge ydolatrouse papistrye.
But yo(u) vertuouse fathers are much busyed in fastinge twyse ⁷ in the weke from sup(er)fluous
suffrages of that wretched booke and in payenge yo(u)r tythes or prayers to God
w(i)thout openyng of yo(u)r sanctified lyppes etc. I omyt at this present to wryte
what face our church had, before it knew yo(u)r puritie, what face it hath
taken of yo(u)r puritie, what yo(u)r pretensed puritie is, what true patriackes
that puritie hath fonden, wherein that puritie consistethe, and what
ghostly frutes that puritie bringeth in day by daye. No more at this tyme.

Gatherings out of D. Balles notes.
They of the puritie have caused ⁸ our Englishe book of prayer
to be banished out of Franckford, where as bothe the papysme and Judaisme
are peaceably suffered to remayne.
Their Scote Knoxe in his sedicious, barbarouse and scismatycall pratlynges
hath reported the sayde booke unperfect, uncleane, unpure, damnable and
full of sup(er)stition deservinge also death, plague and exile.

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⁶ 'extorcioners' crossed out in manuscript.
⁷ Inserted above the line in manuscript.
⁸ 'have caused' crossed out in manuscript.
Inepta\textsuperscript{9} est hec nova Ecclesia cu(m) contemptu Christianiss Anglice nationes\textsuperscript{10} fundamentu(m) habet, conscie(n)tiam et sp(?)\textsuperscript{11} Scoti.

Sub Discipline nomine tyrannis, sub religionis no(m)i(n)e nescio quin imposturor turpuitur Christianq(ue) ordo.

\textsuperscript{9} The Latin sentences were written in an italic script, the remainder of the manuscript in secretary hand.
\textsuperscript{10} Smudge in manuscript either replacing 'e' with 'i' or vice-versa.
\textsuperscript{11} Word not deciphered.