

increasing the papal realm. He got Henry to enter into the foreign wars. I don't mention this particularly because we are going into these wars but for its relationship to Colet. One of the first deeds of Henry after he became king was to invite Colet to assume a very prominent position, a position of ~~34~~ dean of St. Paul's in London. Colet came to that position as dean of St. Paul's and began there in that position to preach sermons on the correction of the church and to preach sermons on the need of improvement in the church and improvement in life in general. Colet seems to be a man of genuine piety, a man very fine in every way, and a man who was anxious that conditions should be improved. He preached some splendid ~~xxx~~ Biblical sermons there and sermons in which he spoke rather frankly about conditions in the church and in the country. He told a friend of Rasmus that he didn't like bishops particularly. He said they were more like wolves than like shepherds. They sold their sacraments. They sold their ceremonies in absolution. They were slaves of vanity and avarice. He considered these as among the worst sins a man could fall into. Now Rasmus says "It is not at all that a dean who hated bishops should have trouble with his own bishops." So the old bishop of London decided to try to bring Rasmus into disgrace with the king. Rasmus we haven't come to yet. I merely touch on him here. We come to him later but here we are interested in Colet. Colet had improved conditions in the chapter there at the deanery, and he had made quite a number of enemies by what he was doing. He insisted that the men preach sermons and he criticized their habit of reading sermons. That offended the bishop who always read his sermons. So the bishop consulted two other bishops and they decided to crush Colet. Colet had criticized the habit of countries of entering into wars with no ~~any~~ particular cause and ~~called~~ called upon them to be more peaceful and they thought here would be a good chance to bring trouble against him before the king. So ~~thence~~ the bishop and a couple of friars went to King Henry and told him that Colet had been preaching against him. But Henry understood that Colet's real offence