

[A 2r:] **To the Reader.**

Because I with great grieve haue nowe often heard, (most dere Reader) that the highly learned and no lesse godly, ientle¹ and louing man Phillip Melancthon is highlye belyed, in that a great sorte openlye saye that he hath denyed the trueth, or (that I maye vse their owne wordes) recanted (whiche
 5 thyng they saye onely to hyndre the furtheraunce of Gods trueth), I coulde do no lesse, but turne into our Englyshe speache, and also put out, this litle treatise of his: not so muche for the defence of his moste named and knowen fames sake (which he hath yet hitherto kepte vndefiled, so that euen the greatest
 10 enemyes of the gospels neither coulde nor haue saied otherwise of hym) as for the coumfortyng of many godly [A 2v:] and christen hertes,² whiche haue bene not a lytell dismayed and discouraged thorow³ suche lyes. And verely not without a cause, for this denying would do more harme to the trueth in these last and most perelouse tymes, than any tongue or penne can
 15 expresse. And God of his goodnesse, bountefull mercye, and great power, graunt, that that neuer chaunce. At this tyme also, thankes be to god therefore, he hath not onely not denyed the trueth, but also after his olde accustomed christen manier, plainely confessed and acknowleged it: whiche thyng this his answeere to the Interim, ynough⁴ witnesseth.

20 And although this his writing be shorte, and answeere not to al the poyntes of the Interim (for that would aske great labour, and long tyme) yet it playnely answereth to [A 3r:] the greatest misuses and to the very senowes⁵ of the Romebushops moste tyrannouse kyngdome contayned in that boke.

He also sheweth tokens ynoughe in the booke, that he will at leasure largelier
 25 write vpon manye poyntes thereof. I receiued also a letter with this treatise, from another godly and learned man,⁶ wherein is writen, that other and diuers learned men in Dutchlande, be in hand to shewe their meaning in writing, as touchyng the same, so that we maye be of muche better comforte then our papistes would gladly se, yea then manye of the good and faithfull christen
 30 be, that that Interim will be withstanded, and not so sone⁷ and easely receaued⁸ as the papistes hope, and many christen feare. This I saie chieflye caused me to putte out this litle boke, at this time.

[A 3v:] But for that there be haply⁹ many that know not what that Interim meaneth, for some haue not seen it, and some haue not harde¹⁰ of it, ye and

¹ gentle.

² hearts.

³ through.

⁴ enough.

⁵ sinews.

⁶ Um wen es sich handelte, war bislang nicht festzustellen.

⁷ soon.

⁸ received.

⁹ perhaps.

¹⁰ heard.