

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH**

**B.A.(HONS.) PART-II, PAPER-III**

**TOPIC- EDWARD II**

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## **EXPLANATIONS**

Q.2. “Proud Rome, that hatchest such imperial grooms

For these thy superstitious taper-lights

Wherewith thy anti-christian churches blaze,

I’ll fire thy crazed buildings, and enforce

The Papal toppers to kiss the lowly ground;

With slaughtered priests may Tiber’s channel swell,

And banks raised higher with their sepulchers.”

**ANS-**

These lines have been extracted from a soliloquy of King Edward II in Act I Scene IV of Marlowe’s play, “Edward II”.

Barons prevail upon the king to subscribe to the decree of Gaveston's banishment, he refuses to give up his company. The Bishop of Canterbury, thereupon, threatens to excommunicate him. Edward feels that a king is unjustly dictated by the priests. He accuses the Pope of keeping such domineering priests, because they act as his servants. They help him in maintaining the dimlight of superstitions. It is for these that the holy candles burn in the Churches. They are the causes of flaring up of anti-Christian beliefs. In a rage, Edward declares that he would set fire on such anti-Christian Churches. He would demolish the towers of the palace of the Pope and make the banks of the river Tiber swell with the bodies of slaughtered priests. He means to say that he would get the priests slaughtered and get their graves erected on the banks of the river Tiber.

Here we have anti-Papal sentiment of the Elizabethans and not medieval. It is anachronistic in the play as in the Middle ages the kings of Christendom were subordinate to the Pope but it is a Protestant outburst.

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