

**From** *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, vol. 8: January- July 1535*, edited by James Gairdner. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1885, pp. 213-14.

20 April [1535]  
R. O.

**565.** SIR JOHN MARKHAM AND OTHERS TO CROMWELL.

Interrogatory ministered by the right honorable Mr. Thos. Cromwell, chief secretary to the King's highness, unto Robt. Laurence, prior of Bevall, and Augustine Webster, prior of Hexham (Axholme).

Whether they and either of them would be content to obey the King as supreme head in earth under Christ of the Church of England, called Anglicana ecclesia, according to the statute? To which both answered they could not consent nor believe that he is so. 20 April 1535, 26 Hen. VIII. At the Rolls. Present: Edw. Foxe, almoner; John Tregunwell, LL.D.; Thos. Bedle, archdeacon of Cornwall; Ric. Riche, the King's solicitor; and Ralph Sadler. *Attested by Johannes Rheseus (John ap Rice), notary.*

*Pp. 2. Endd.*

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2. Depositions.

Robert Lawrence, prior of the Charterhouse at Bevall, Notts, and Augustine Webster, prior of the Charterhouse at Hexham (Axholme), Lincolnshire. Said they could not agree that the King is supreme head of the Church of England, according to the statute. Richard Reignolde, brother of the Order of Recluses of St. Bridget, of the monastery of Sion, said he could not take the King to be supreme head under Christ, and refuse the Pope as head of the Universal Church. Leek deposes that Mr. Reynoldes and he had communication touching the two daughters of the Queen's mother, as contained in the bill, and that Reynoldes showed him, about 12 months ago, that the Princess Dowager was the true Queen, and, since that time, that the King could not be supreme head of the Church. Leek says all the brothers of Sion "be of good g ...." of the King's marriage, except Reignolde, "secunda examinatione Leek."

ii. Objections against John Leek, clerk of Syon.

1. He advised Hale not to go to Hounslow before the Commissioners to take oath to renounce the Papacy and acknowledge the King's supremacy.

2. He himself never took the oath, but absented himself, being then moved by a scruple, but was now content to accept it. 3. Hale or Ferne showed him the said slanderous bill between Sion and Thystelworthe, but he has concealed it till now. 4. Hale or Ferne read this bill to him about a half year past. Hale told him there was ruffling toward, &c. That he and Reynoldes have had communication of the said slanderous bill touching the two daughters of the Queen's mother. 5. Reynold showed, 12 months past, that [214] the lady Dowager was the true Queen, and that the King could not be supreme head. 6. Mody says that Hale and he had communication that the saying was, "the King's grace had meddling with the Queen's mother."

7. He read the same slanderous bill, and confesses the concealment of it.

iii. Objections against John Hale, vicar of Istylworthe.

Leek says that Hale or Ferne showed him the slanderous bill; he could not remember which, but on second examination said it was Ferne. That Hale said to Leek there was ruffling toward in Ireland, and that he would stand in stead of a man. That he heard Skydmore speak divers words. That Skydmore says Hale called the King the "Molywarpe" that Merlin prophesied of, that turned all up, and that the King was accursed of God's own mouth, and that the marriage between the King and Queen was unlawful.

iv. Objections against Ferne, clerk.

He confesses writing the bill with his own hand in Latin and English, &c.

v. Objections against Thos. Skydmore, of Syon.

John Hale says he had heard Skydmore call the King a robber and piller of the commonwealth, and say there should be ruffling in Ireland, &c. One Layman, a prophecier, said that the Pope would be in England ere Midsummer, &c.

*In the margin of all these depositions are certain numbers, referring apparently to articles of indictment.*

*Pp. 5, mutilated.*