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LVIII.

ABJURATION OF PAPAL SUPREMACY BY THE
CLERGY, A. D. 1534.

ON March 31, the Convocation of Canterbury considered the ques- 1534.
tion of the papal supremacy and rejected it by a decisive majority.
The Convocation of York discussed the matter on May 5 and subsequent
days. The Cambridge decision is dated May 2, and the Oxford June 27.
The king's proclamation 'abolishing the usurped power of the pope'
is dated June 9.

CONVOCATION OF CANTERBURY.

[Tr. Wilkins, iii. 769, who quotes from the Register of Convocation¹.]

On the last day of March, in the presence of the most reverend Ralph Pexsall, the clerk of the crown in the chancery of the lord the king, in the name of the said king, presented a royal writ for summoning Convocation and proroguing it to the fourth day of November following. And afterwards was exhibited a writing by William Saye, notary public, concerning the answer of the Lower House to the question, viz. 'Whether the Roman pontiff has any greater jurisdiction bestowed on him by God in the Holy Scriptures in this realm of England, than any other foreign [*externus*] bishop?' Noes 34, doubtful 1, ayes 4.

Canterbury Convocation decides affirmatively by a large majority that the pope has no greater power, &c.

CONVOCATION OF YORK.

[Tr. Reg. Lee, fol. 88; cf. Wilkins, iii. 782.]

By virtue of a royal writ this synod, convened on the fifteenth day of May, sent to the lord the king, by the

The Convocation of York, re-

¹ We have failed to trace the original.—EDD.

1534. archbishop's certificate, the sentence of their decision against the pope's supremacy: 'To the most illustrious and excellent prince and lord, the lord Henry VIII, by the grace of God king of England and France, defender of the faith, and lord of Ireland, Edward, by Divine permission archbishop of York, primate of England, and metropolitan, greeting. We make known and declare to your royal highness, by the tenor of the presents, that when, according to the mandate of your royal majesty, the following conclusion was proposed in the presence of the prelates and clergy of the province of York, gathered together in the sacred synod of the province or Convocation of the prelates and clergy of the same province of York, held in the Chapter House of the metropolitan church of York, on the fifth day of May, in the present year of our Lord 1534, and continued from day to day: "That the Bishop of Rome has not, in Scripture, any greater jurisdiction in the kingdom of England than any other foreign bishop." And when further, on behalf of the presidents deputed by you in the same synod, the said prelates and clergy were asked and demanded to confirm and endorse that opinion by their consent, if they thought or judged it consonant to the truth and not repugnant to the Holy Scriptures; at length the said prelates and clergy of the province of York aforesaid, after careful discussion had in that behalf, and mature deliberation, unanimously and concordantly, with no dissentient, affirmed the conclusion above-mentioned to have been and to be true, and concordantly consented to the same. Which all and singular we notify to your highness by the tenor of the presents. In testimony of which, all and singular, we have caused our seal to be affixed to the presents. Given in our castle of Cawood, the second day of June, in the year of our Lord 1534, and the third of our consecration.'

ceiving an order from the king,

considers the proposition submitted,

and affirms the same conclusion, that the pope has no greater power, &c.