

the moſt part to yelde to the kings requeſt, ſavinge this holy biſhop, who vtterly refuſed to condeſcend therevnto, and therfore ernestly required the lordes, and others of the Convocation to conſider and take good heed what miſcheifs and inconveniences would enſewe to the whole church of *Chriſt*, by this vnreaſonable and vnſeemly graunt made to a temperall prince, which neuer yet to this daie was once ſo much as once demaunded before, neither can yt by any meanes or reaſon, be in the power or rule of any temporall potentate. “And therefore” (ſaid he) “yf ye graunt to the kings vaine requeſt in this matter, it ſeemeth to me to pretend an imminent and preſent daunger at hand: for what yf he ſhould ſhortly after chaunge his mind and exerciſe in deed the Supremacie over the church of this realme? or what yf he ſhould die, and then his ſucceſſor challenge the continewance of *the ſame*? or what yf the crowne of this realme ſhould in time fall to an infant or a woman that ſhall ſtill continewe and take the ſame name vpon them? What ſhall we then doe? whom ſhall we ſerve vnto? or where ſhall we have remedie?” The kings Counſellors to that replied & ſaid, that the kinge had no ſuch meaninge as he doubted,¹ and then alleadged againe his royall proteſtacion & oath made in the word of a kinge. “And further” (ſaid they) “though the Supremacie were graunted to his *Maieſtie* ſimply & abſolutely accordinge to his demaund, yet it muſt needes be vnderſtoode and taken, that he can have no further power or authoritie by it then *quantum per legem dei licet*, and then yf a temporall Prince can have no ſuch authoritie and powre by gods law (as his *Lordſhip* (?) had there declared), what needeth *the* forecaſting of all theſe doubtēs?” Then at laſt the Counſellors fell into diſputacion amonge the Biſhoppes, of a temporall princes authoritie ouer the Clergie, but therto my lord of Rocheſter answered them ſo fullie, that they had no liſte to deale that waie any further, for they were in deed but ſimple ſmatterers in Divinitie to ſpeake before ſuch a Divine as he was. And ſo they departed in great anger, ſhowing themſelves openly in their owne lykenes, and ſaying that whoſoeuer would refuſe to condeſcend to the kings demand herin, was not worthie to be accounted a true and lovinge ſubiect.

¹ Fol. 64.

The Lords and other of the Convocacion seeing this kind of threatninge perswasion, besides many other false practises, and fearinge the report of the Counsellors to be made to the Kinge (whom they knew & perceaved to be all cruelly bent against the Clergie) grew at ¹last to a conclusion, and so after fundrie daies argument in great strivinge and contention agreed in manner fully and wholly amonge them to condiscend to the kinges demaund. That he should be supream head of *the* church of England, and to credit his princely word so faithfully, and solemnly promised vnto them.

My lord of Rochester perceiving this soden & hastie graunt only made for feare, and not vpon any iust ground, stood vp againe all angrie, and rebuked them for *their* pusillanimity in beinge so lightly changed and easilly perswaded. And beinge verie loath that any such graunt should passe from the Clergie thus absolutely, and yet by no meanes able to staie it for the feare that was amonge them, He then advised the Convocacion, that seeinge the kinge, both by his owne mouth, and also by the fundrie speeches of his Orators, had faithfully promised, and solemnly sworne in the high worde of a kinge; That his meaninge was to require no further then quantum per legem dei licet, and that by vertue therof his purpose was not to intermeddle with any spirituall lawes, spirituall iurisdiction or government, more then all other his predecessors had alwaies done before: yf it so be that you are fully determined to graunt him his demaund (which I rather wish you to denie then graunt) yet for a more trewe and plaine exposition² of *your* meaninge³ towardes the kinge and all his posteritie, let these condicionall wordes be expressed in *your* graunt, quantum per legem dei licet, which is no otherwise (as the kinge and his counsellors say) then themselves meane. But then the Counsellors (who by that time were returned to the Convocacion howse for speed of their busines) hearing of my lord of Rochesters words, cryed vpon them with open and continuall clamour to have *the* grant passe absolutely, and to credit the kings honor in givinge them so folemne a protestacion and oathe. But after this time no-thinge could prevaile: for then the Clergie answered with their full

¹ Fol. 64, back.

² *Expression* written under exposition.

³ Fol. 65.