

**From** *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, vol. 7: 1534*, edited by James Gairdner. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1883, p. 236.

[1534]

Cleopatra, E. iv. 11. B. M.

**590.** THE ROYAL SUPREMACY.

All the friars of every monastery in England must be assembled in their chapter house, and examined separately concerning their faith and obedience to Henry VIII., and bound by an oath of allegiance to him, queen Anne and her present and future issue. They must be bound by oath to preach and persuade the people of the above at every opportunity. They must acknowledge the King as supreme head of the Church, as Convocation and Parliament have decreed. They must confess that the bishop of Rome has no more authority than other bishops. They shall not call the bishop of Rome pope, either privately or publicly, or pray for him as such. They shall not presume to wrest the Scriptures, but preach the words and deeds of Christ sincerely and simply, according to the meaning of the Holy Scriptures and Catholic doctors. The sermons of each preacher must be carefully examined, and burned if not Catholic, orthodox and worthy of a Christian preacher.

Preachers must be warned to commend to God and the prayers of the people, first the King, as head of the Church of England, then queen Anne with her child, and lastly, the archbishop of Canterbury, with the other orders of the clergy. Each house must be obliged to show their gold, silver and other moveable goods, and deliver an inventory of them. Each house must take an oath under their convent seal to observe the above orders.

*Lat., pp. 2.*