The clergy's reply to the supplication of the Commons.

made in time coming, unless your highness, by your royal assent, shall licence us to make, promulge, and execute such constitutions, and the same to make shall approve by your highness's authority.

Secondly, whereas your highness honourable common do pretend that divers of the constitutions provincial, which hath been herefore enacted, be not only much prejudicial to your highness prerogative royal, but also overmuch onerous to your said commons; we your most humble subjects, for the considerations aforesaid, be contented to refer and commit all and singular the said constitutions to the examination and judgment of your grace only, and whichsoever of the same shall finally be found, thought, or judged by your grace's most high wisdom, prejudicial and overmuch onerous, as is pretended, we offer and promise your highnesses to moderate or utterly to abrogate and annul the same, according to the judgment of your grace; saving to us all such immunities and liberties of this church of England, as hath been granted unto the same by the goodness and benignity of your highness, and of others your most noble progenitors, with all such constitutions provincial, as do stand with the laws of Almighty God, and holy church, and of your realm herefore made, which we most humbly beseech your grace to ratify and approve by your royal assent, for the better execution of the same in times to come, amongst your grace's people; providing also, that until your highness's pleasure herein shall be further declared unto us, all manner of ordinances may execute their jurisdictions, according to the said constitutions, in like manner and form as they used the same in times past.

Papæ Rom.  
Clement. VII. 9.  
Archiep. Cont.  
Guilhel. Warham 39.

Anno Christi  
1532.

Reg. Anglat.  
Henric. VIII. 24.

A declaration of the clergy in convocation presented to the king before their submission. Ex MS. Cott. Cleop. F. i. fol. 101.

Forasmuch as the answer lately made by your clergy unto your honourable commons for their satisfaction in their bill of complaint, put up unto your highness, doth not please nor satisfy your highness in some points, concerning your own particular interest, especially in that point that concerneth laws, either new to be by us made, or else old to be by us reformed; for your highness's better contentation in that behalf, we your said most humble chaplains doth now more specially answer unto those points, as followeth.

First, as touching new laws to be by us hereafter made; we say, that the laws and determinations of Christ's holy church, throughout all christian realms received and used, been clear and manifest, that the prelates of the same church have a spiritual jurisdiction, and judicial power to rule and govern in faith and good manners, necessary to the souls health of their flocks unto their cure committed, and that they have authority to make and ordain rules and laws tending to that purpose, which rules and laws hath and doth take their effect in binding all christian people, as of themselves, so that before God there needeth not of necessity any temporal power or content to concur with the same by the way of authority.

Item they say, that this power and authority in making laws, in matters concerning the faith and good manners, necessary to the souls health, all christian princes hath hitherto reckoned themselves bound to suffer the prelates to use within their realms, and have not claimed of the said prelates, that they should from time to time require their content or licence, by the way of authority more in making of such laws, than they do claim that the said prelates should from time to time require their contents autoplayable in the giving of holy orders to any of their flocks, or in the exercising of any other spiritual act depending upon their spiritual jurisdiction; the authority whereas proceedeth immediately from God, and from no power or content autoplayable of any secular prince, except it be that content that is taken of the prince's own submission to the faith catholique, made not only by their noble progenitors, when they first admitted Christ's faith, and the laws of the holy church within their realms, but also by themselves, first generally at their baptism, and after more specially, and most commonly by their corporal oaths at their coronation.

We say also, that this power of making laws aforesaid is right well founded in many places of holy Scripture, now so much the less necessary here to be reheard, forasmuch as that matter is at large let out in a book, now by us put up unto your highnesses, and your highnesses yourselves in your own book most excellently written again: Martin Luther, for the defence of the catholique faith and Christ's church, doth not only knowledge and confesse, but also with most vehement and inexpugnable reason and authorities doth defend the same, which your highnesses book we reckon that of your honour ye cannot, nor of your goodnesse ye will not revoke.

Yet these considerations notwithstanding, we your most humble chaplains and breadners, considering your high wisdom, great learning, and infinite goodnesse towards us and the church, and having special trust in the same, and not minding to fall in contention, or in disputes with your highness in any manner of matter, what we may do; we be contented to make promise unto your highnesses, that in all such acts, laws, and ordinances, as upon

Vol. III.
A declaration of the clergy before their submission.

your lay subjects, we by the reason of our spiri-
tual jurisdiction and judicial power shall hereafter make, we shall not publish nor put them forth, except first we require your high-
ness to give your content and authority unto them, and so shall from time to time suspend all such our acts, ordinances, and laws here-
after to be made, unto such time as your high-
ness by your content and authority shall have authorized the same, except they be such, as shall concern the maintenance of the faith and good manners in Christ's church, and such as shall be for the reformation and correction of fin,' after the commandments of almighty God, according unto such laws of the church, and laudable customs, as hath been herefo-
lore made, and hitherto received, and used within your realm.

In which points our truth is, and in our most humble manner we define your grace,
that it may be, that upon the refusal of your content, which we reckon that we need not fear, yet if any such thing should fall, your highness shall be then contented that we may exercise our jurisdiction as far as it shall be thought necessary unto us, for the maintenance of Christ's faith, and for the reformation of sin, according unto our offices, and the voca-
tion that God hath called us unto.

As for the secondary point concerning laws, which in time past hath been made by us, or by our predececssors, contrary to the laws of this your realm, and to your prerogative, as it is pretended; to this point we your highness most humbly challenge answer and say, that such our laws by our predececssors within this realm made, as contain any matter contrary to your laws or prerogatives, and be not now in use, and do not concern the faith nor re-
formation of sin, when we shall be advertised of them, we shall right gladly in that part revoke them, and declare them to be void and of none effect; so that your said right honourable commaund we shall now dare execute your laws without any fear, dread, or danger of our said laws, if any such there be.

Papae Rom.

CLEMENT. VII. 9.

Archby. Cant.

GUILL. WARHAM 29.

Anno Christi

1532.

Reg. Anglie

HENRIC. VIII. 74.

Instrumentum super submissione cleri coram domino rege quoad celebrationem con-
ciliorum provincialium, exhibitum ab archiepiscopo Cant. 16. Maii, M. D. XXXII.

Ex reg. Warham in ann.

I

In Dei nomine, Amen. Per praecipientes pub-
lisci instrumenti serui cumis apparat evidenter et lat notum, quod anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo tricesimo secundo, indictione quinta, pontificatus sanctissimi in Christo patris et domini nostri, domini Clemens, div. prov. illius nominis papae septimi, anno novo, mensis vero Maii die 16. in quo-
dam ambulatorio infra aedes excellentissimi et invittiissimi principis et domini nostri, domini Henricii, sanctissimi et praefidentis et ordinatis regis, fidei defensoris, et domini Hibertiae illustriissimi, prope Westm. situat. constitutum personaliter reverendissimum in Christo pater et dominus, dom. Willielmus, permisitio divina Cant. archiepiscopum, totius Angliae primam, et apatolicii sedis legatum, quondam schedulam per ipsum et alias episcopos, abbatas, et pri-
res domus superiores conversionis prachato-
rum, et cleri provinciae Cant. in domo capitula-
lii infra monasterium Westm. heferta die, viz. quindicesima die hujus mensis Maii, teneat inadlatam, concordatam, et conclam eadem excellentissimi et invittiissimi domino regi praefentavit, tradidit, et liberavit. Quam qui-
dam schedulam illius dominus Thomas dux Norf. thecaurarius Anglicus, tune et ibidem coram dicto excellentissimo domino nostro rege, reverendissimeque patre archiepiscopo praedicto, necnon reverendis patribus dominii Johanne Lincolne, Johanne Buth et Wollen-
ct. Henrico Affiphon. episcopis, religiosoque viris monasteriorum sancti Albani, de Bury, de High Waltham, ac Meron abbatibus et prior.
in negotiorum notariatus publicorum subjici-
portum, et teditum infirius nominatius praec-
fentius, de mandato ejusdem excellentissimi et invittiissimi domini nostri regis publice perlege-
bat; cujus quidem schedulam verus tenor re-
currur verborum sequentium sub tenore:

We your most humble subjects, daily ora-
tons and beadmen of your clergy of England, having one speciall truth and confidence in your most excellent williom, your princely good-
nete, and fervent zeal to the promotion of God's honour and christians reigne, and also in your learning, far exceeding, in our judg-
ment, the learning of all other kings and princes that we have reed of; and doighting nothing, but that the same shall still continuue and dailey increase in your majestie, first do offer and promisse "in verbo facdotri" here unto your highness, submitting our selves most humbly to the same, that we will never from henceforth the enaie, put in oure, promulge, or ex-
ecute any newe canons or constituation pro-
vincial, or any other newe ordinance, provincial or synodall, in our convocations or synode, in time comnyng, which convocation is, alway hath byn, and must be assembled only by your high commandement of write; only your highness by your roayall affent shall lycence us to asample our convocation, and to make, promulge, and execute such constitutions and ordinamientos, as shall be made in the same, and thereto give your roayall affent and authorite.

Secondarilly, that whereas divers of the con-
situtiones, ordinamientos, and canons provincial or synodall, which have been herefore enacted, but thought to be not only muche prejudi-
ciall
INSTRUMENTUM SUPER SUBMISSIONE CLERI. 755

dicall to your prerogative royall, but also over manye onerous to your highneffes subjectes; your clergye aforesaid is contented, if it may stand fo with your highneffes pleasure, that it be committed to the examination and judgment of your grace, and of thirty two persons, whereof sixteen to be of the upper and nether house of the temporall, and other sixteen of the clergye, all to be chosen and appointed by your most noble grace. So that by all whichsoever of the said conftituions, ordinances, or canons provincially or synodall shall be thought and determined by your grace, and by the most part of the said xxxii. persons not to stand with God’s laws, and the laws of your realme, the fame to be abrogated and taken away by your grace, and the clergye. And such of them as shall be seen by your grace, and by the most part of the said thirty two persons to stand with Goddes lawes, and the laws of your realme, to stand in full strength and power, your grace’s most royalty affent and authorize ones imperate fully given to the fame.

Super quibus omnibus et singulis tam dictis invictissimos principes Henricus, rex Angliae et Franciae, dominus noftrarupercus, quam idem reverendissimus pater archiepifcopus Cant., nos notarios publicos fubscriptos unam vel pluram, publicum feu publica instrumentum five instrumenta exinde conficere impellant requirunt, et corum uterque requirive. Adeae fuerunt hunc omnia et singula, prout fuperfcribuntur et recitantur, sub anno Domini, indictione, pontificatu, mene, die et loco prædicat. prætentibus tunc ibidem nobilibus viris dominis Georgio Bergovenni, Johanne Hutt, Johanne Mordaunt, bartonibus; Willemo Fitzwilliam, militis; et Thomas Cromwull, armigeris, testibus ad praemiffa rogatis et specialiter requisitis.


Papae Rom. 
S. Clement. VII. 9. 

Archiep. Cant. 
Guilliel. Warham 29.

Anno Christi 
1532.

Reg. Angliae 
 Henric. VIII. 24.

The king’s proclamation that nothing shall be hereafter purchased from Rome. Vol. II. Fox Martyr. p. 329.

The king’s highnefs straitly chargeth and commandeth, that no manner of persons, what estate, degree, or condition soever he or they be of, do purchase, or attempt to purchase from the court of Rome, or elsewhere, nor use and put in execution, divulge or publish any thing heretofore within this year pasted, purchased, or to be purchased hereafter, containing matter prejudicial to the high authority, jurifdiction, and prerogative royall of this his laid realm, or to the let, hindrance, or imprisonment of his grace’s noble and virtuous intended purposes in the premises, upon pain of incurring his highnefs indignation, and imprisonment, and further punishment of their bodies, for their so doing, at his grace’s pleasure, to the dreadfull examples of all other.

The oath of the clergy to the king. Ibid. p. 332.

I John, bishop of A. utterly renounce, and clearly forfake all such claues, words, tenences, and grants, which I have, or shall have hereafter of the pope’s holynesse of and for the bishoprick of A. that in any wifh hath been, is, or hereafter may be hurtfull or prejudicial to your highnefs, your heirs, fiecles, dignity, privilege, or estate royall; and also I do swear, that I shall be faithfull and true, I shall bear to you my sovereign lord, and to your heirs, kings of the fame, of life and limbs, and earthly worship, above all creatures, to live and die with you, and yours, against all people, and diligently I shall be attendant to all your needs and businesfs, after my wit and power. And your council I shall keep and hold; knowing my self to hold my bishoprick of you only, becheching you of restitution of the temporalties of the fame, promising (as before) that I shall be faithfull, true, and obediently Subject unto your said highnefs, heirs, and succesfors, during my life, and the services and other things due to your highnefs, for the restitution of the temporalties of the fame bishoprick, I shall truly do, and obediently perform.

So God me help, and all faints.

Convocatio.