

saye naye: besyde that, my Lord we neuer offended in the Premunire, for we medeled neuer with the Cardinals faculties, let the Bysshoppes and Abbottes whych haue offended paye. Then the Bysshoppes officers gaue to the priestes hyghe woordes, whiche caused them to be the more obstinate. Also dyuers temporall men whych were present confortd the Priestes and bade them agree to no payment. In this rumor, dyuers of the Bysshoppes seruauntes were buffeted and stryken so that the Bysshop beganne to be a frayde, and with fayre woordes appeased the noyse, and for all thynges whiche were done or sayde there he pardon-ed them and gaue to them his blessing and praied them to departe in charitie. And then they departed thynkyng to heare no more of the matter, but they were disceyued, for the Byshop went to syr Thomas Moore then beyng Lorde Chauncellor (which greatly fauoured the Bysshop and the Cleargye) and to hym made a greuouse complaynte and declared the facte very greuously, wherevpon commaundement was sent to syr Thomas Pargitor Mayer of the Citie, to attache certayne priestes and temporall men, and so. xv. priestes and. v. temporall men were arrested, of the whych, some were sent to the Tower, some to the Fleete, and other Prisons, where they remayned long after.

In this season were dyuers Preachynges in the Realme, one contrarye to another concerning the Kynges Maryage, and in especiall one Thomas Abell clerke, bothe preached and wrote a Booke, that the Mariage was lawfull, whiche caused many symple men to beleue his opinion: This Abell was the Queenes Chaplayne, and wrote this Booke to please her withall: wherfore the Kyng caused a Determinaciō of the Vniuersities, & all the iudgementz of gret Clerkes to be compyled into a Booke and to be Printed, whiche Booke dyd satisfie the myndes of all indifferent & discrete persons: but some men were perciall that neither learnyng nor reason could satisfy their wylfull myndes.

This yere the Kyng kepte his Christemas at Grenewyche with great solempnitie, but all men sayde that there was no myrthe in that Christemas because the Queene and the Ladies were absent.

After Christemas the. xv. daye of Ianuary the Parliament began to sytte, & amongst dyuers griefes whych the Commons were greued with, they sere cōplayned of the crueltie of the Ordinaries, for callyng men before theym *Ex officio*: that is, by reason of ther office: For the Ordinaries woulde sende for men and ley Accusacions to them of Heresy, and say they were accused, and ley Articles to them, but no Accuser should be brought furth, whiche to the Commons was very dredeful and greuouse: for the partie so Assited must either Abiure or be burned, for Purgacion he myght make none.

When this matter and other Exactions done by the Clergy in their Courtes were long debated in the Common House, at the last it was concluded & agreed, that all the griefes which the temporall men were greued with, shoulde be putte in writyng and delyuered to the Kyng, whiche by great aduyce was done: wherfore, the. xviii. day of Marche the Common speaker accompanied with dyuers Knyghtes and Burgesses of the Common House came to the Kynges presence, and there declared to hym how the temporal men of his Realme were sore agreued with the cruell demeanoure of the Prelates and Ordinaryes, which touched bothe their bodyes and goodes, all whiche griefes, the Speaker delyuered to the Kyng in writyng, most humbly besechyng his grace to take soche an ordre & direction in that case, as to his hygh wysedome myght seme most conuenient. Further he beseched the king to consider what payne, charge and cost, his humble subiectes of the nether house had susteyned syth the begynnyng of this Parliament, and that it woulde please his grace of his Princely benignitie to dissolue his courte of Parliament, that his subiectes myght repayre into their countreys.

The Kynges
sayng.

When the Kyng had receyued the Supplicacion of the Commons, he paused a whyle and then sayde: It is not the offyce of a Kyng which is a Iudge to be to lyghte of credence, nor I haue not, nor wyll not vse the same: for I wyll heare the partie that is accused speake or I geue any sentence: your booke conteyneth dyuers Articles of great and weyghtye matters, and as I perceyue, it is agaynste the Spirituall persones and Prelates of our Realme, of
whiche

whiche thynge you desyre a redresse and a reformation, whiche desyre and request is mere contraryant to your last Peticion: For you requyre to haue the Parlyament dissolved and to departe into your countreys, and yet you woulde haue a reformation of your griefes with all diligence: Although that your payne haue ben great in taryng, I assure you mync hath ben no lesse then yours, and yet all the payne that I take for your wealthes is to me a pleasure: therefore if you wyll haue profyte of your complaynte, you must tary the tyme, or els to be without remedy: I moche commend you that you wyll not contende nor stand in stryfe with the Spirituall men, whiche be youre Christen brethren, but moche more me thynketh that you shoulde not contende with me that am youre Souereygne Lorde and Kyng, considering that I seke peace and quyetnesse of you: For I haue sente to you a byll concerninge wardes and primer season, in the which thynges I am greatly wronged: wherfore I haue offered you reason as I thynke, yea, and so thynketh all the Lordes, for they haue set their handes to the booke: Therefore I assure you, if you wyll not take some reasonable ende now when it is offered, I wyll serche out the extremitie of the lawe, and then wyll I not offre you so moche agayne: with this answer, the Speaker and his company departed. The cause why the Kyng spake these woordes was this: Daily men made Feoffementes of their landes to their vses, and declared their wylls of their landes with soch remaynders, that not alonly the kyng but all other Lordes lost their Wardes, Mariages and relieffes, and the kyng also lost his primer season, & the profyte of the lyuerey, whiche was to hym very preiudiciall and a great losse: wherfore he, lyke an indifferent Prince, not willyng to take all, nor to lose all, caused a byll to be drawn by his learned councell, in the which was deuysed, that euerye man myght make his wyll of the halfe of his lande, so that he lefte the other halfe to the heyre by discent. When this Byll came fyrst amonges the Commons, lorde how the ignoraunt persones were greued, and howe shamefully they spake of the byll and of the Kynges learned Councell: but the wyse men which vnderstoode & sawe the myschiefe to come, would gladly haue had the byll to be assented to, or at the least to haue put the Kyng in a suretye of the thyrde or fourthe parte, which offer I was credibly informed the Kyng woulde haue taken, but many frowarde and wyfull persones, not regarding what myght ensue (as it dyd in dede) woulde neither consent to the byll as the Lordes had agreed and set to their handes, nor yet agree to no reasonable qualificacion of the same, whiche they sore repented: For after this, the Kyng called the Iudges and best learned men of his Realme, and thei disputed this matter in the Chauncery, and agreed that lande coulde not be wyllid by the ordre of the common law: wherupon an Acte was made, that no man myght declare his wyll of no parte of his land: which Acte sore greued the Lordes and Gentlemen that had many chyldeyn to setfurth. Therefore you may iudge what mychiefe cometh of wyfull blyndnesse and lacke of foresyght in so great causes.

This Parliament was proroged tyll the tenth day of Apryll, in the whiche Parliament was an Acte made, that Bysshops shoulde pay no more Annates or money for their Bulles to the Pope: for it was openly proued that there was payed for the Bulles of Bysshoppes, in the fourthe yere of Kyng Henry the seuenth, the Kynges father, tyll this yere, one hundredre thre score thousand pounce sterlyng, besyde all other Dispensacions and Pardones; wherof the summe was incredible.

When the Parliament was begonne agayne after Ester, there came downe to the Common house the Lorde Chauncelloure, the Dukes of Norffolke & Suffolke, the Erles of Arundell, Oxforde, Northumbrelande, Rutlande, Wylshyre and Sussex, and after they were set, the Lorde Chauncellor declared, howe the Kyng was aduertised by his Councell, and in especiall by the Duke of Norffolke, howe on the Marches betwene Englande and Scotlande was very lytell habitacion on the Englysh syde, but on the Scottysh syde was great habitacion, and the Scottes dwelled euen iust on the border, by the reason wherof they inuaded Englande dyuers tymes, and dyd to the Kynges subiectes great hurte and displeasure: wherfore the Kyng entended to make dwellyng houses there, and also to make new diuers Pyles and stoppes to let the Scottysh men from their inuasions, to the great commoditie of all his