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THE  
**Healing Attempt :**  
Being a Representation  
OF THE  
**GOVERNMENT**  
OF THE  
**Church of England,**

According to the Judgment of her  
Bishops unto the End of *Q. Elizabeths* Reign.

Humbly Tendred

To the Consideration of the Thirty Commissioned  
for a Consult about *ECCLESIASTICAL*  
*AFFAIRS* in Order to a *Comprehension*;

And Published,

In hopes of such a Moderation of Episcopacy, that the  
*Power* be kept within the Line of our *First Reformers* :  
and the *Exercise* of it reduced to the Model of *Arch-*  
*Bishop USHER.*

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*Mediocria firma.*

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# The Epistle to the Commissioners.

*Most Reverend, Right Reverend and Reverend,*

**I** Bless you all in the Name of the Lord, and Blessed be your Meeting this Day, and this Appointment for you to Sit about so Blessed a reconciling Work. I have but this short Grace to say, *Blessed are the Peacemakers.*

When such a *Choice* of Persons is Congregated, and their Business *Accommodation*, the Tidings hereof to the poor *Outed Shepherds* should, methinks, be so *affecting*, as if the *Angels* were again upon the Wing, and singing over that Hymn, *Glory be to God in the highest, in Earth Peace, and good will towards Men.*

Alas! How many Years have passed since the Reformation, wherein your Nonconformist Brethren have been a Loading, and their Burthen encreasing, and none of you that were willing, were able to ease them, when by the Artifice of the Papists, and the Higher Powers influenced by them, you were forced to *bear the blame* of those things which your Souls did *abhor*: And now is the time come when God hath sent us such a *Nursing Father* and *Nursing Mother* to his Church, as hath called you to the *liberty* of shewing of what manner of Spirit indeed you are. Blessed be his Name for it, and the hopes we have on that account. *This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will be glad, and rejoyce in it.*

## The Epistle to the Commissioners.

I know indeed how hard of belief the most of our Brethren generally are that any good should be done for us by a *Convocation* or this *Meeting*. It is impossible (they are readier to say) that those---But Reverendly beloved, I am perswaded better things of you, and things that accompany *Salvation*, though they thus speak. I am perswaded that even this will stimulate you to a greater earnestness to do them the more good (for such is Christianity), and that I shall not need to say any thing (not any more than in the Title) to put you on this grateful task, *The same also which ye are forward to do* : I have less need to be impertinent in offering *Arguments* to such *Wits*, which were to bring *Water* to the *Spring* : but this one thing I have need to do, which is, to beg of you that you will Pardon what is done, if in any thing the Author seems to *presume*, or to be more *slender* than he ought, for want of more *time* and *search*, or does in any regard *offend*. I will also beg of you more *Two* things ; the *One* is, To take heed how you make more conditions necessary to us for *Communion* with you, than Christ requires of you for *Communion* with him : The *Other* is, That you do not *Tantalize* your Brethren, or *Procrastinate* that Kindness (whatsoever it is) which you intend towards those who are capable to receive it ; *For we must needs die, and are as water spilt upon the ground, which cannot be gathered up again : Neither doth God respect any person, yet doth he devise means that his banished be not expelled from him.*

A Friend to the Design and Substance

Oct. 3. 1689.

of these Papers, J. H.

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THE  
AUTHOR  
TO THE  
READER.

**T**HE Greatest thing in Controversie amongst Protestants is, Whether the Office of a Presbyter, and Bishop be, according to the Holy Scriptures, the same? and on a Just Determination of this Question depends the Peace of our Church.

To affirm, That the Bishop and Presbyter are of different Orders, That the Power of Ordination is the sole Prerogative of Bishops, That Ordination, only by Presbyters, is void and null, and that the Ordaining 'em again by Bishops is not Re-Ordination, destroys the Church State, not only of Dissenters, but of all other Protestants in the World, except of those in the Church of England, nulling their Ministry, Sacraments, and Discipline.

A Comprehension therefore on these Terms is none at all; It's only an offer to Unite with Dissenters on their doing

## The Author to the Reader.

doing what is to them Impossible; They cannot Renounce their Ordination, nor Consent to the Destroying their own, nor the Church State of Reformed Protestants Abroad.

But, lest the Impossibility they lie under be Interpreted a Peevish Humour, and Obstinacy in them, the Sentiments of the First-Reformers, in the Days of Henry the Eighth, Edward the Sixth, and Queen Elizabeth, are Impartially Propos'd and found to be exactly the same with theirs; and, what will, touching Matters of Church Government, Heal our Divisions.

The Author could Descend lower than the last of Elizabeth; but that were to go beyond his purpose: And he must acknowledge, that tho' a great many Eminent Writers, Learned Divines of the Church of England, asserted this Old Reformer's Principle; yet the Canons of James I. ran another way, and in his Reign the Learned were divided in their Opinions about the Office of Bishop and Presbyter; and so they are at this very time: However, it cannot be denied, that the First Reformers, adher'd unto by Archbishop Usher, held the same, which the Dissenters have all along stiffly maintain'd, and have Antiquity on their side.

The Learned Carleton is Positive, that the Power of Order by all Writers, that He could see, even of the Church of Rome, is understood to be Immediately from Christ, given to all Bishops and Priests, alike by their Consecration, and that in this there was no Difference between Papist and Protestant; whence it follows, that the Divesting the Parish Presbyter of the Pastoral Office is but a late Invention.

Thus

## The Author to the Reader.

*Thus much He Asserts of that Power of Order which he distinguisheth from the Power of Jurisdiction, and includes in it the Power of Ordination.*

*And although, according to the most taking Opinion amongst those, who seem'd to be somewhat Zealous for Prelacy, the Power of Jurisdiction was peculiarly appropriated to the Bishop, yet this Jurisdiction following Orders, could never be so separated from it, but that there still remain some Convincing Instances of its belonging unto Presbyters.*

*In the Case of a Bishop's Suspension, it's clear; I will only observe what is at this time most obvious.*

*On the Suspension of the Archbishop of Canterbury, All Ecclesiastical and Spiritual Jurisdiction belongs to the Dean and Chapter, who are but Presbyters, as is daily Asserted in these words. Nos Johannes Tilletus Sacræ Theologiæ Professor, Decanus Ecclesiæ Cathedralis & Metropoliticæ Christi Cant'. Et Eiusdem Ecclesiæ Capitulum, ad quos Omnis, & omnimoda Jurisdictio Spiritualis, & Ecclesiastica, quæ ad Archiepiscopum Cant. pertinuit, nunc ratione Suspensionis, &c. dignoscitur pertinere.*

*A Condescending to settle the Power of Orders, and Jurisdiction on Presbyters, as well as Bishops, according to the Learned Archbishop Usher's Model, will as to Matters of Church Government End the Controversie between the Moderate Episcopal, and Presbyterian.*

*As to what relates unto Stinted-Forms of Prayer, the Judicious Mr. Clerkson, in his Excellent Discourse of Liturgies, having so Learnedly and fully*  
*discussed*

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*discussed it, the Author need do no more than only Commend its Perusal to the Candid Reader, with an Assurance, that until it be cleared that Stinted Liturgies are Ancienter than that Learned Person Represents them to be, we shall be freed from a strict Imposition.*

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THE

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## T H E

## Healing Attempt.

## The Introduction.

**T**Hose, who are most sensible of the late Deliverance from the Dangers we were in of being overturn'd by the *Papists*, must be of an Opinion, that the many *Divisions*, amongst our selves, had too great a hand in bringing on us what was the true Ground of our Danger; *that* we can never be perfectly free from the Fears of a Return, so long as our Breaches remain Uncured; and, *that*, it's absolutely necessary, that every one do his Part towards the *Settlement* of a *lasting Union* amongst Protestants, as the strongest Bulwark against *Popery*.

Thus much I count is very manifest to every Considering Mind; for, at this time, Protestants, of all Perswasions, seem to be desirous of it.

Although there are different Apprehensions about the *Means* of attaining it, as, whether by an *Indulgence* only; or, whether by *Indulgence*, and *Comprehension*, yet is there no doubt, that I know, about the *Union* it self; and seeing an *Indulgence* is already given, Extending *Liberty of Conscience* even to the *Quakers*, and a *Bill of Comprehension* is at this time on the *Anvil*, I will humbly offer my thoughts concerning it.

That such as are only for an *Indulgence* will be angry with this *Essay*, is no other than I expect. However, the Arguments

ments for a well-Establish'd Comprehension influencing me more than the Displeasure of any Party of Men on Earth, I am resolv'd in God's strength, to do the uttermost in me lyeth towards the obtaining it.

It is a Concernment for the Protestant Faith, the Salvation of Souls, the Glory of God, that puts me on this work; all which have been Endangered through that want of Powerful Preachers in Parish Churches, which hath been the Effect of our Divisions.

I bless God, there are so many Faithful and Laborious Ministers in *Publick* Places, and yet, considering how few these are in comparison of the Churches wants, I cannot but lament the Deplorable Condition of Thousands in this Nation, who on this occasion are like Eternally to Perish, and pray the Lord of the Harvest to *Open* the Door, that more Labourers may enter in, even men of the most Tender Consciences, who, no doubt. will be the most successful in their Ministry.

In Queen *Elizabeths*, and *James* the First's days, it so fell out, that a strict *Injunction* of *Subscription* Depriv'd the Church of the Labours of several Divines eminent for their Learning, Holiness of Life, and Conversation.

Consult the *Complaint*, Presented to the Right Honourable the Lords of Her Majesties Council, and their Lordships *Answer*: The *Copy of a Letter*, written by a Gentleman in the Countrey to a *Londoner*, touching the *Answer to the Archbishop's Articles*: The *Lamentable Complaint* of the Commonalty by way of Supplication to the High Court of Parliament for a *Learned Ministry*, and you'll see, that for Non-conformity some of the most Conscientious, and Painful Preachers were brought to the Barr, Marshalled with the worst Malefactors, Indicted, Arraigned, Condemned, New Christned with the odious name of *Puritan*, Depriv'd, to the Advancement of Popery, Debauchery, Atheism, and to the great Declension of the Power of Godliness.

A Disgracing those Ministers, that are found in the Faith and Industrious in their Work, hath been one of the most successful Engines the Antichristian Party have used.

The first Ten years of Queen *Elizabeths* Reign, the *Pa-*  
*pists*



pists kept to our Churches, and if *Saunders*, and some others, had not with an unexpected success nick-named some of the most Valiant Opposers of *Poper*y, and Painful Preachers with the odious names of *Puritan* and *Precisian*, to the good liking of some amongst our selves, they might have still continued their Communion with us.

This is not the Observation of some Nonconformists only, but of the Wise and Judicious Sir *Robert Cotton*, who assures us, that the Reason of the Papiests separating from our Church, and returning to their old Apostacy, was not the Bull of *Pius Quintus* on the Bishop of London's Door (as the Lord Chief Justice *Coke* apprehended) or the forbearing to hang up Priests, but in conjunction with the Idleness and Insufficiency of many Teachers conspiring with the Peoples cold Zeal, *Saunders* his pinning the name of *Puritan* on some of the most Learned and courageous Protestants, gave life to that Faction.

“ It was not (saith this Noble Baronet) the  
 “ Bull of *Pius Quintus* on the Bishop of London's  
 “ Doors, or the forbearing to hang up Priests, that have  
 “ wrought this Apostacy, but the Idleness and Insufficiency of  
 “ many Teachers, conspiring with the Peoples cold Zeal, that  
 “ hath been the Contriver of this Web. Until the Eleventh  
 “ year of Queen *Elizabeths* Reign, Recusants name was scarcely  
 “ known, the Reason was, because the Zeal, begotten in the  
 “ time of the *Marian* Persecution, was yet fresh in Memory,  
 “ and the late Persecutors were so amazed with the sudden  
 “ alteration of Religion, that they could not chuse but say,  
 “ *Digitus Dei est hic*. In those days there was an Emulation  
 “ between the Clergy, and the Laity; and a strife arose whether  
 “ of them should shew themselves most affectionate to  
 “ the Gospel: Ministers haunted the Houses of worthiest  
 “ Men, where *Jesuits* now build their Tabernacles, and  
 “ poor Country Churches were frequented with the best of  
 “ the Shire, the Word of God was precious, Prayer and  
 “ Preaching

*The N. C. in their Complaint to the Queens Council humbly advertise their Lordships, that the Adversary very cunningly new Christned them with an odious name of Puritan, that whilst they were occupied in the Defence of their Innocency the Adversary might have greater freedom to go about their hateful Treachery. Part of the Regist. pag. 129.*

“ Preaching went hand in hand together, until Archbishop  
 “ *Grindal's Disgrace*, and *Hatfield's* hard conceit of Prophecy-  
 “ ing, brought the flowing of those good Graces to a still  
 “ water; the name of a Papist smelt rank even in their own  
 “ Nostrils, and for pure shame to be accounted such they re-  
 “ sorted duly both to our Churches, and Exercises; But  
 “ when they saw their great *Coryphaeus Saunders* had sily pin-  
 “ ned the name of *Puritan* upon the sleeves of the Protestants  
 “ that encountred them with *most Courage*, and perceiv'd that  
 “ the *Word* was pleasing to some of our own side, they took  
 “ heart at *Grass*, to set little by the Service of God, and  
 “ Duty to their Sovereign-----most Men grew to be frozen  
 “ in Zeal and benumbed, that whosoever (as the worthy  
 “ Lord Keeper *Bacon* observ'd in those days) pretended a  
 “ little spark of *Earnestness*, he seem'd no less than red fire  
 “ hot, in comparison of the other. And as some fare the  
 “ worse for an ill Neighbour's sake dwelling beside them;  
 “ so did it betide the Protestants, who, seeking to curb the  
 “ the Papists, or reprove an idle Drone, were incontinently  
 “ branded with the Ignominious note of *Precisian*, all which  
 “ wind brought plenty of water to the *Pope's Mill*, and there  
 “ will most Men grind where they see Appearance to be  
 “ well served: So far Sir *Robert Cotton*.

And as the disgracing Godly Ministers by fastning the  
 names of *Puritan*, *Precisian*, &c. on 'em, and the laying  
 'em aside from the publick exercise of their Ministry, did  
 in the Reign of *Elizabeth* give life to Popery, so 'twill still,  
 and all those Protestant Ministers that are now denied en-  
 trance into the Parish Churches will be in disgrace amongst  
 the People and their Ministry not half so successful amongst  
 those that mostly need it.

The *wider* therefore the Church Doors are made the greater  
 will be the number of Pious and Painful Preachers, the  
 greater the Advantage on Truth's side, and the greater Dis-  
 couragement on the other hand.

But that the Door may be made *wide enough* to answer  
 the desired End, seeing our Governours are inclin'd to lay  
 aside the strict use of Ceremonies, with some more offensive  
 Impositions there is this one thing, to wit, The *Ordering*, and  
*Declaring*

*Declaring the Government of the Church to be now no other, but what it was held, and intended to be by the first Reformers, will, as I humbly apprehend, be the most Effectual Expedient of any else in the World.*

Some of our Clergy have *Notions* about *Church-Government*, very *Dissonant* from what the *Gentry*, and *Parliament Men* have, and the first Reformers heretofore had, and it's feared by some thinking Persons, that the *Laws*, yet in Being, have *Established* a *Government* in the *Church*, very different from what the *Legislators*, I mean, the *King*, the *Temporal Lords* and *Commons* generally designed.

The *Government* settled in the *Church* by the first Reformers, and still supposed by our *Gentry* to continue, is consistent enough with the *Church* state of all other *Protestants*; but *that*, which is really *Established* by *Law* is *Inconsistent* with, and *Destructive* of it, driving many *Learned Godly Protestant Divines*, from that *Conformity* which is at this time made necessary to the *Exercise* of their *Ministry* in *Parish Churches*.

To clear this much is (methinks) one of the most necessary things to be attempted, and the very *next step* to be taken towards the settling a *Comprehension*, which will be of validity with *Judicious Men*.

What were the *Sentiments* of the *First-Reformers* about *Episcopacy*, and *Church Government*, during *Queen Elizabeths* *Reign*, I will with the greatest impartiality declare, as near as possibly I can in their own words, and add some Arguments to shew, that the most effectual way to settle such a *Comprehension* as will best secure the *Protestant Religion*, is the *Forming* and *Framing* the *Government* of the *Church*, according to the *Sentiments* of our *First-Reformers*; which in the *Learned Archbishop Usher's Reduction* of *Episcopacy*, I take to be very happily copied out unto us.

I will begin with those who liv'd in *Henry* the *Eighth's* days; for then began the *Reformation*.

## C H A P. I.

The Sense of our First Reformers in Henry  
the Eighth's Days.

**I**N this King's Reign *Tindall, Lambert and Barnes*, Men of good Learning, and blessed Martyrs, sealing the Truths they professed with their Blood, struggled strenuously for a Reformation of *Church Government*.

*Tindall*, looking on Corruptions in *Discipline* to be a principal occasion of that greater Deluge of Enormities in the Church, presseth for a Reduction of all things in the Discipline to the *Apostolical Institution*, and therefore makes Enquiry after those Officers, the Apostles Ordained in Christ's Church, and what their Offices were; and gives us an account of his Perswasion of it thus: "Wherefore the Apostles following and obeying the Rule, Doctrine and Commandment of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Ordained in his Kingdom and Congregation *TWO OFFICERS*: one called after the Greek word *Bishop*, in *English* an *Overseer*, which same was called *Priest* after the *Greek*, *Elder* in *English*, because of his Age, Discretion, and Sadness; for he was as nigh as could be always an *Elderly Man*. And this *Overseer* hath put his hands unto the Plough of God's Word, and fed Christ's Flock, and tended them only, without looking to any other Business in the World. Another *Officer* they chose, and called him *Deacon*, after the *Greek*, a *Minister* in *English*, to *Minister the Alms of the People unto the Poor, and Needy*. For in the Congregation of Christ, love maketh every Man's Gifts and Goods common to the Necessity of his Neighbour.----- There is *Presbyteros* called an *Elder* by birth, which same is called immediately a *Bishop*, or *Overseer*, to declare what Persons

*Tindall's Preface of Popish Prelates.*

*Tindall on the word Elder.*

" Persons are meant,-----They were called *Elders*, because of  
 " their Age, Gravity, &c. and *Bishops* and *Overseers* by reason  
 " of their *Offices*. And all that were called *Elders*, or *Priests*  
 " (if they so will) were called *Bishops* also, tho' they have di-  
 " vided the names now, which thing thou mayst evidently see,  
 " by the first Chapter of *Titus*, and the twentieth of the *Acts*.  
 " Those *Overseers*, which we now call *Bishops* after the Greek  
 " word, were alway *biding in One* place to Govern the Con-  
 " gregation there; But *Deacons* were Overseers of the Poor,  
 " and crept not into Orders till the Church grew rich.

*Lambert* is of the same Opinion. " As touching *Ach. Mon.*  
 " Priesthood (saith he) in the *Primitive Church*, when *Vol. 2.*  
 " Vertue bare (as ancient Doctors do deem, and Scripture  
 " in mine opinion recordeth the same) the most room, there  
 " were no more Officers in the Church of God than *Bishops*  
 " and *Deacons*, that is to say, *Ministers*, as witnesseth besides  
 " Scripture, full apertly *Hierome* in his *Commentaries* upon  
 " the Epistles of *Paul*; whereas he saith, That those we call  
 " *Priests*, were all one and no other but *Bishops*, and the *Bi-*  
 " *shops* none other but *Priests*, Men ancient both in Age and  
 " Learning, so near as they could be chosen. Neither were  
 " they *Institute*, and chosen as they be now adays, with small  
 " regard of a *Bishop*, or his *Officer*, only apposing them, if  
 " they can construe a Collect.-----To conclude, I say, the  
 " Order, or State of *Priests*, and *Deacons* was Ordained by  
 " God.

The Sixth Article against *Dr. Barnes* was; That he declared  
 himself thus. " I will never believe, nor yet can I ever be-  
 " lieve, that one Man may be by the Law of God a *Bishop*  
 " of two, or three Cities, yea, of an whole Countrey; for  
 " it is contrary to *St. Paul*, which saith, *I have left thee behind,*  
 " *to set in every City a Bishop.* And if you find in one place of  
 " Scripture that they be called *Episcopi*, you shall find in ma-  
 " ny that they be called *Presbyteri*.----- I was (saith he)  
 " brought before my Lord *Cardinal* into his Gallery, and  
 " there he read all my Articles till he came to this, and  
 " there he stopped, and said, That *this touch'd him*, and there-  
 " fore he ask'd me, if I thought it wrong that *One Bishop*  
 " should have so many Cities underneath him? Unto whom I  
 " answered,

“ answered, That I could no further go than to *St. Paul's*  
 “ Text, which, set in every City a Bishop. Then asked he  
 “ me, whether I thought it unright (seeing the Ordinance of  
 “ the Church, that one Bishop should have so many Ci-  
 “ ties? I answered, that I knew no Ordinance of the  
 “ Church, as concerning this thing, but *St. Paul's* Saying  
 “ only? Nevertheless I did see a contrary Custom and Pra-  
 “ ctice in the World, but I know not the original thereof.  
 “ Then said He, There were divers Cities, some seven Miles,  
 “ some six Miles long, and over them was there set but one  
 “ Bishop, and of their Suburbs also; so likewise now a Bishop  
 “ has also but one City to his Cathedral Church, and the  
 “ Country about it as Suburbs to it. Methought this was  
 “ far fetch'd, but I durst not deny it, because it was so great  
 “ Authority, and of so *Holy a Father*, and so great a Divine.  
 “ But this I dare say, that his Holiness could never prove it  
 “ by Scripture, nor yet by any Authority of Drs. nor yet  
 “ by any Practice of the Apostles, and yet it must be true,  
 “ because a Pillar of the Church has spoken it: But let us  
 “ see what the Drs. say to mine Article. *Athanasius* doth  
 “ declare this Text of the Apostle, *I have left thee behind, &c.*  
 “ He would not commit unto one Bishop a whole *Ylde*, but he  
 “ did injoyne, that every City should have his *Proper Pastor*,  
 “ supposing, that by this means they should more diligently  
 “ Oversee the People———Also *Chrysoſtom* on that same  
 “ Text: *He would not that a whole Country should be permitted*  
 “ *unto One man, but He enjoyned to every man his Cure, by that*  
 “ *means he knew, that his Labour should be more easie, and the*  
 “ *Subject's should be with more Diligence Govern'd, if the Tea-*  
 “ *chers were not distract with the Governing of many Churches,*  
 “ *but had Cure, and Charge of one Church only, &c.* Me-  
 “ thinks these be plain words, and able to move a man to speak  
 “ as much as I did——But I, poor Man, must be an Heretick,  
 “ there is no Remedy, you will have it so, and who is able to  
 “ say nay? *Not all Scripture, nor yet God Himself.* So far these  
 three Worthies.

About this time the Notion of these blessed Martyrs found  
 respect amongst those, that bore a great Figure in the Church.  
 The Author of the *True Difference between the Regal Power*  
and

and the Ecclesiastical, gives countenance unto it, and at last Cranmer with many others fell in with it, and it became a Point establish'd by Authority, as may be seen in the *Necessary Erudition of a Christian Man*, where, after the Description given of the Office of *Priests* and *Deacons*, it's affirmed, "That of these Two Orders only Scripture makes express mention, and that we may not mistake 'em, it's added, of these two Orders only, that is to say, *Priests*, and *Deacons*, Scripture makes express mention, and how they were conferred by the Apostles by Prayer, and Imposition of hands. Besides, The Description they give of the Office of a Bishop or Priest, for when they speak of the Divine Institution, they make no distinction between 'em; it's thus: *The Office consists in true Preaching and Teaching the Word of God unto the People, in Dispensing and Ministering the Sacraments, in Consecrating and Offering the blessed Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar, in loosing and assoyling from Sin such Persons as be sorry and truly penitent for the same, and Excommunicating such as be guilty in manifest Crimes, and will not be reformed otherwise, and finally in Praying for the whole Church of Christ, and especially for the Flock committed to them.* Thus there are but two Orders only, that is to say, *Priests* and *Deacons*, no third Order; Bishops therefore must be of the same Order with *Priests*, and their Office the same, and the Superiority of one above the other only by Humane Ordinance and Appointment. And whereas (say they) we have thus summarily declared what is the Office and Ministration which in Holy Scriptures has been committed to Bishops and Priests, and in what things it consisteth, as is afore rehearsed, we think it expedient and necessary, that all men should be advertis'd, and taught, that all such Lawful Power and Authority of any one Bishop [or Priest, for they are in the sense of these Great Divines the same] over another were, and be given them by the Consent, Ordinance, and Positive Laws of Men only, and not by any Ordinance of God in Holy Scripture. So far the *Necessary Erudition*.

Thus in Henry the Eighth's days, the Bishop and Priest of the same Order according to the Scriptures, and their Office the same, the Difference therefore between 'em and the Government that is grounded thereupon by Prelatick

Bishops, Archbishops, &c. is only by the Positive Laws of Men.

In a Declaration made of the Functions and Divine Institution of Bishops and Priests, subscrib'd by Thomas Cromwell, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and divers other Bishops, Civilians, and Learned Men, it is thus Resolved. “As touching

*Consult the Addenda in Dr. Burnet's History of the Reformation, p. 321, &c.*

“the Sacrament of Holy Orders We will,  
 “That all Bishops and Preachers shall instruct and teach our People committed by us unto their Spiritual Charge. First, How that Christ and his Apostles did institute and ordain in the New Testament, that beside the Civil Powers, and Governance of Kings and Princes, which is called in Scripture *Potestas gladii*, the Power of the Sword, there should be also continually in the Church Militant, certain other Ministers, or Officers, which should have Spiritual Power, Authority and Commission under Christ to Preach and Teach the Word of God unto his People, and to Dispense and Administer the Sacraments of God unto them; and by the same to confer and give the Grace of the Holy Ghost, to consecrate the blessed Body of Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar, to loose and absolve from Sin, all Persons which be duly penitent, and sorry for the same; to bind and Excommunicate such as be Guilty in manifest Crimes and Sins, and will not amend their defaults, to order and consecrate others in the same room, Order and Office whereunto they recalled & admitted themselves; and finally, to feed Christ's People like good *Pastors* and *Rectors*, as the Apostle calleth them, with their wholesome Doctrin and by their continual Exhortations and Monitions to reduce them from Sin and Iniquity so much as in them lieth, and to bring them unto perfect Knowledge the perfect Love and Dread of God, and unto the perfect Charity of their Neighbours.—That this Office, this Power and Authority was committed and given by Christ and his Apostles unto certain Persons only, that is to say, unto Priests, OR Bishops, whom they did Elect, call and admit thereunto by their Prayer, and Imposition of their hands.  
 “—And to the intent the Church of Christ should never  
 “be



“ be destituted of such Ministers as should have and execute  
 “ the said Power of the *Keys*, it was also Ordained and Com-  
 “ manded by the Apostles, that the same Sacrament should  
 “ be applied and ministred by the Bishops from time to time,  
 “ unto such other Persons as had the Qualities which the Apo-  
 “ stles very diligently descryve; as it appeareth evidently in  
 “ the third Chapter of the first Epistle of *St. Paul* to *Timothy*,  
 “ and his Epistle unto *Titus*. And surely this is the whole  
 “ Vertue and Efficacy, and the Cause also of the Institution  
 “ of this Sacrament, as it is found in the *New Testament*; for  
 “ albeit the Holy Fathers of the Church of Christ, with all  
 “ those things which were commendable in the Temple of  
 “ the *Jews*, did devise not only certain other Ceremonies  
 “ than before rehearsed, as *Tonsures*, *Rasures*, *Unctions*, and  
 “ such other Observances to be used in the Administration of  
 “ the said Sacraments; but did also Institute certain Infe-  
 “ rior Orders or Degrees, as *Fanitors*, *Lectors*, *Exorcists*,  
 “ *Acolits*, and *Sub-Deacons*; and deputed to every one of those  
 “ certain Offices to execute in the Church, wherein they fol-  
 “ lowed undoubtedly the Example and Rites used in the Old  
 “ Testament; yet the Truth is, *That in the New Testament*  
 “ *there is no mention made of any Degrees, or Distinctions in*  
 “ *Orders, but only of Deacons, OR Ministers, and of Priests,*  
 “ *OR Bishops: Nor there is any word spoken of any other Ce-*  
 “ *remony used in the Conferring of this Sacrament, but only of*  
 “ *Prayer, and the Imposition of the Bishops hand.*

Thus the Power of *Excommunication*, and *conferring Orders*  
 by Prayer and Imposition of Hands, as declared in the *New*  
*Testament*, belongs unto the *Priest*, which is the same with  
 the Bishop; there being no Degrees or Distinctions in Or-  
 ders, but only of *Deacons* or *Ministers*; and *Priests* or *Bishops*,  
 and consequently no Superiority therefore of a Bishop above  
 a Priest to be found in the *New Testament*, during King  
*Henry the Eighth's* days.

## C H A P. II.

*The Judgment of the Reformers in Edward the Sixth's Days the same 'twas in Henry the Eighth's, holding no Difference by Divine Law between a Bishop and Presbyter.*

**I**N the First Year of *Edward* the Sixth's Reign, an Act of Parliament passed, sufficiently Declaring the Episcopal Order as distinct from, and above that of the Presbyter, to be wholly from the Crown; for it was affirm'd, That all Authority of Jurisdiction *Spiritual*, is derived and deducted from the King's Majesty, as *Supream Head* of these Churches of *England* and *Ireland*.

“ The Design of this Law, as *Dr. Heylin* has it, *was to weaken* the Authority of the *Episcopal Order*, by forcing them from their strong hold of *Divine Institution*, and making them no other than the King's Ministers only, His Ecclesiastical Sheriffs (as a man might say) to execute his Will, and disperse his Mandates.

*Dr. Poynt* Bishop of *Winchester*, in this King's Reign, in Answer unto a Book writ by *Stephen Gardiner*, tho' sent out under the Name of *Dr. Martin*, about the *Marriage of Priests*, doth sufficiently shew that the *Reformers* in those days were great Approvers of *Calvin's* Notions about Church Government, and therefore willing to lay aside even the very Name *Bishop*, and make use of the Names [*Superintendent, Minister, Senior, Elders, &c.*] for these are his words. “ And further, “ whereas it pleaseth *Martin*, not only in this place, but also “ hereafter, to Jest at the Name [*Superintendent,*] he sheweth himself bent to condemn all things that be good. Who knoweth not, that the Name [*Bishop*] hath so been abused, that when it was spoken, the People understood nothing else but a great *Lord, that went in a white Rocket, with a wide shaven Crown, and that carrieth an Oyl Box with him,*

“ where-

“ wherewith he useth once in seven years, riding about to Confirm  
 “ Children, &c. Now to bring the People from this abuse,  
 “ what better means can be devised than to teach the Peo-  
 “ ple their Error by another word out of the Scriptures of  
 “ the same signification, which thing by the term [*Superin-*  
 “ *tendent*] would in time have been well brought to pass—  
 “ The name [*Bishop*] spoken amongst the Unlearned, sig-  
 “ nified to them nothing less than a *Preacher of God’s Word*,  
 “ because there was not, nor is any thing more rare in any  
 “ Order of Ecclesiastical Persons than to see a Bishop  
 “ Preach.—I deny not, but the name [*Bishop*] may be well  
 “ taken, but because the Evilness of the Abuse hath marred  
 “ the Goodness of the Word, it cannot be denied but that  
 “ it was not amiss to joyn for a time another word with it  
 “ in his place, whereby to restore that abused word to his  
 “ Right Signification.—Oh how the Papists would tri-  
 “ umph over us, if they had like proof for the names (I say)  
 “ of *Pope, Cardinal, Canon, Prebendary, Monk, &c.* as we,  
 “ that profess Christ have for the maintainance of the terms  
 “ and names (*Superintendent, Minister, Seniors, Elders, Bre-*  
 “ *thren,*) and such like by us used.

The Resolution Archbishop *Cranmer* gave to the Que-  
 stions propounded by *Edw. 6.* approved by the  
 Bishop of *St. Asaph, Therleby, Redman* and *Cox,* See Dr. Stilling-  
 makes it manifest, that these great *Reformers* fleet’s MS.  
 owned not Episcopacy as a Distinct Order from Presbytery,  
 of *Divine Right*, but only, as a prudent Constitution of the  
 Civil Magistrate for the better Governing the Church. “ In  
 “ the Apostles time (says *Cranmer*) when there  
 “ was no Christian Princes by whose Autho- Resol. to Q. 7.  
 “ rity Ministers of God’s Word might be ap-  
 “ pointed, nor Sins by the Sword corrected, there was no Re-  
 “ medy then for the Correction of Vice, or appointing of  
 “ Ministers, but only the consent of Christien multitude by  
 “ themselves, by an Uniform consent to follow the advice and  
 “ perswasion of such Persons, whom God had most endaed  
 “ with the Spirit of wisdom and counsaile.—Sometime  
 “ the Apostles and other unto whom God had given abun-  
 “ dantly his Spirit, sent, or appointed Ministers of God’s  
 “ Word,

“ Word, sometime the People did choofe such as they thought meet thereunto.

Resol. to Q. 10. “ ——— The *Bishops* and *Priests* were at one time, and were not two distinct Things, but both one Office in the Beginning of Christ’s Religion. ———

Resol. to Q. 11. “ The People before Christian Princes were, commonly elected their *Bishops* and *Priests*. ———  
“ In the *New Testament*, he that is appointed

Resol. to Q. 12. “ to be a *Bishop* or *Priest*, needeth no consecration by the Scripture; for Election or appointing thereto is sufficient.

Thus far that Excellent Person (saith a Reverend Divine of the Church of *England*) in whose Judgment nothing is more clear than his ascribing the particular Form of Government in the Church to the Determination of the *Supream Magistrate*.

The Divine Right of Forms of Church Government Examined, p. 390, &c.

### C H A P. III.

*Aley Bishop of Exeter, Pilkington Bishop of Durham, Jewel Bishop of Salisbury, Whitgift Archbishop of Canterbury, of the same Opinion with Tindall, Lambert, Barnes, and the Reformers in King Edward’s Time.*

**I**N Queen *Elizabeth’s* Reign, the first I find to mention any thing about the Office of *Bishops* and *Priests*, is Dr. *Alley* Bishop of *Exeter*, in his *Miscellanea* on his third *Praelection*, read at *Paul’s* in the Year 1560. on the word *Bishops*.

Alley’s Poor Man’s Library, Tom. 1. pag. 95, 96.

“ What difference is between a *Bishop* and a *Priest*, *St. Hierome* writing *ad Titum*, doth declare, whose words be these : *Idem est ergo Presbyter, qui Episcopus, &c.* A *Priest* therefore is the same that a *Bishop* is. And before *Schisms* “ and

“and Factions by the instinct of the Devil begun in Religion, and before it was said among the People, I am Pauls, I am Apollos, I am of Cephass, the Churches were Governed *with the Common Council of the Priests* (or Elders).

“But after that every one thought those whom he Baptized to be his, and not Christ's; it was decreed throughout the World, that one of the Priests or Elders should be chosen to be set over the rest, unto whom all the care (or charge) of the Church should appertain, and that the beginnings of Schisms should be taken away: Some do think, that it is not the sentence of the Scriptures, but ours, that a Bishop and Priest, (or Elder) are one thing, and they do also think the one to be a name of Age, and the other to be a name of Office. Let them read again the words of the Apostle to the *Philippians*, saying, *Paul and Timotheus the Servants of Jesu Christ, to all the Saints in Christ Jesu, which are at Philippos, with the Bishops and Deacons, Grace and Peace be with you, &c. Philippi* is one of the Cities of *Macedonia*. And truly there could not be many (as they are called.) Bishops in one City. But because at that time they called those Bishops, which they did also call Priests (or Elders) therefore indifferently he spake of Bishops, as of Priests (or Elders). It may yet seem doubtful to some, unless it be approved by other Testimonies. In the *Acts of the Apostles* it is written, that when the Apostle came to *Miletum*, he sent to *Ephesus*, and did call the Priests (or Elders) of the same Church, unto whom among other things he said thus, *A Hand to your selves, &c.* And here mark you diligently, how that he calling the Priests or Elders of that one City of *Ephesus*, did afterwards call them *Bishops, &c.* And *Peter* which took his name of the firmness of his Faith, in his Epistle saith, *I your fellow Elder do beseech the Elders that are among you, &c. Hac Hieronimus.* These words are alledg'd, (saith Bishop *Aley*) that it may appear, Priests among the Elders, to have been even the same that Bishops were. But it grew by little and little, that the whole charge and care should be appointed to one Bishop within his Precinct, that the Seeds of Dissention might be utterly rooted out.

P. 15. In his *Second Tome*, the Bishop adds out of  
 St. Jerom, "*Sicut Presbyteri, &c.* Like as Priests do  
 " know themselves to be subject by the *Custom of the Church*,  
 " unto him which is made Ruler over them : So let the *Bi-*  
 " *shops* know, that they are greater than the *Priests*, rather  
 " by *Custom*, than by the verity of *Dispensation given of the*  
 " *Lord*. He saith also in another place, with the old Fathers,  
 " the Bishops were the same that the Priests were ; for the  
 " name of one is the name of Dignity, and the other of  
 " Age and Time. So far Bishop *Aley*.

The next I meet with is *Pilkington*, Bishop of *Duresme*, the  
 Author of the *Confutation of an Addition with an Apology*,  
 written, and cast in the Streets of *West-Chester* against the  
 Causes of *Burning Paul's Church in London*, declared by the  
 Bishop at *Paul's Cross*.

The Bishop did at *Paul's Cross* Exhort the people to take  
 the burning of *Paul's* to be a warning of a greater *Plague*  
 to follow to the City of *London*, if amendment of Life be  
 not had in all Estates, the Author of the *Addi-*  
*tion* (a Papist, notwithstanding what *Heylin*  
 saith to the contrary, when he tells us that the  
 Papists ascribe it to some practice of the *Zuinglian* Faction,  
 out of their hatred unto all Solemnity and Decency in the  
 Service of God, perform'd more punctually in that Church  
 for Examples sake than in any other in the Kingdom) im-  
 putes it to the laying aside of the midnight Mattins, forenoon  
 Masses formerly had in the Church, and Anthems and Pray-  
 ers in the Steeple.

This Bishop, a Person of great Learning and good Tem-  
 per, in Answer to this Paper, doth in the Sixth year of the  
 Queens Reign, thus express himself. " Yet remains one  
 " doubt unanswered in these few words, when he saith, that  
 " the Government of the Church was committed to Bishops, as  
 " tho' they had received a Larger and Higher Commission  
 " from God, of *Doctrine* and *Discipline* than other Lower  
 " Priests and Ministers have, and hereby might challenge  
 " a greater Prerogative. But this is to be understood, that  
 " the Privileges and Superiorities which Bishops have above  
 " other Ministers, are rather granted by Man, for maintain-  
 " ing

"ing of better Order and Quietness in Common-wealths,  
 "than Comanded by God in his Word. Ministers have  
 "better Knowledge and Utterance some than other; but  
 "their Ministry of Equal Dignity. God's Commission and  
 "Commandment is like, and indifferent to all, Priest, Bi-  
 "shop, Archbishop, Prelate, by what name soever he be  
 "called—Saint *Jerome* in his Commentary on 1 Chap. *Tit.*  
 "says, that a Bishop and Priest is all One, and in his Epistle  
 "ad *Evagrium* he says, That the Bishop wheresoever he be,  
 "is of the same Power and Priesthood.—If they [the  
 "Papists] were not too much blinded in their own foolish-  
 "ness, they might see in the last Subsidy granted in the  
 "time of their own Reign, that they grant those to be their  
 "betters and above them, from whence they receive their  
 "Authority. The Parliament gives them and their Colle-  
 "ctors Power to Suspend, Deprive and Interdict any Priest,  
 "that Pays not the Subsidy: In that doing they grant the  
 "Parliament to be above them, and from it to receive their  
 "Power.—I had not thought to have said so much on these  
 "his few words, and yet much more hangs on *this* their Opinion  
 "of claiming their Usurped Power above Princes and other  
 "Ministers.

The Learned Bishop *Jewel* is of the same Mind with this Author, and thus much he delivereth, not as his private Opinion, but as the sense of the Church of *England*. "Furthermore we say, That the Minister ought lawfully, duly, & orderly to be prefer'd to that Office of the Church of God, and that no man hath power to wrest himself into the Holy Ministry at his own pleasure; That Christ hath given to his Ministers Power to bind, to loose, to open, to shut; That the Minister doth execute the Authority of binding and shutting, as often as he shutteth up the Gate of the Kingdom of Heaven against Unbelieving and Stubborn Persons, denouncing unto them God's Vengeance, and everlasting Punishment; or else when he doth quite shut them out from the bosom of the Church, by open *Excommunication*. Out of doubt, what Sentence soever the Minister of God shall give

Apol. Par. 25  
 Ch. 5. Divis. 1.  
 Ch. 6. Divis. 1.

Ch. 6. Divis. 3.  
 Ch. 7. Divis. 5.

“in this sort, God himself doth so well allow it, that, whatsoever here in Earth by their means is loosed and bound, God himself will loose and bind, and confirm the same in Heaven.—And seeing one word is given to all; and one only Key belongeth to all, we say, *there is but one only Power of all Ministers, as concerning opening and shutting.*

At this time so much was given the Priest, that no room was left to make the Bishop of an Order distinct from him: The Keys belong'd to all Ministers, to the Priest as well as Bishop.

*Part. 2. Ch. 3. Div. 5.* In the *Defence of the Apology of the Church of England*, this Learned Bishop is more full and particular in his Assertions. “In St. Jerom’s time (saith he) there were *Metropolitans, Archbishops, Archdeacons, and others*, but Christ appointed not these Distinctions of Orders from the beginning. These names are not found in all the Scriptures: This is the thing which we defend. St. Jerom saith, *Sciant Episcopi, &c.* Let Bishops understand, that they are in Authority over Priests more by Custom, than by Order of God’s Truth.—*Erasmus* speaking of the times of Jerom, saith, that *Id temporis idem erat Episcopus, Sacerdos, & Presbyter.* These three names Bishop, Priest, Presbyter, at that time were all one.—

To the Testimony of *Jerom*, the Bishop adds that of *St. Austin*, Epist. 19. saying, “That the Office of a Bishop is above the Office of a Priest, not by Authority of the Scriptures, but after the names of Honour, which the custom of the Church hath now obtained.

*Part. 2. Ch. 9. Div. 1.* The Bishop in *Defence of the Church of England*, had affirm’d, That against the Sacred Scripture, neither Law, nor Ordinance, nor any Custom ought to be heard, no, tho’ *Paul* himself, or an Angel from Heaven should come, and teach the contrary.

To this *Harding* replies, *If all things necessary to Salvation be contain’d in the Scriptures, then whatever is not in them contained, the same is not necessary; if not necessary, why should we be laden with unnecessary Burdens? Then away with all Traditions at a Clap, be they never so Apostolick.—Remember you not what the most Renowned Fathers have said of the Necessity of Traditions?—*

*If*



If we go about to reject the Customs that be not set forth in Writing—we shall bring the Preaching of the Faith but to a bare name. For so they were taken for Hereticks, who denied the Distinction of a Bishop, and a Priest, &c.

*Jewel* rejoyns, " This [in the Margin] is an Untruth, for hereby both *St. Paul* and *St. Jerom*, and other good men are condemn'd of Heresie.—But what meant *Mr. Harding* here to come in with the Difference between *Priests* and *Bishops*? thinketh he that *Priests* and *Bishops* hold only by Tradition? or is it so horrible a Heresie as he makes it, to say, That by the *Scriptures of God*, a *Bishop* and a *Priest* are all One? or, knoweth he how far, and to whom he reacheth the name of an Heretick? Verily, *Chrysoptom* saith, Between a *Bishop* and a *Priest*, in a manner there is no difference; *St. Jerom* saith somewhat in a rougher sort, I hear say, There is one become so peevish, that he setteth *Deacons* before *Priests*, that is to say, before *Bishops*; whereas the *Apostle* plainly teacheth us, that *Priests* and *Bishops* are all one. *St. Austin* saith, what is a *Bishop* but the *first Priest*, that is to say, the Highest *Priest*? so saith *Saint Ambrose*, There is but *One Ordination* of *Priest* and *Bishop*, for both of them are *Priests*, but the *Bishop* is the *first*. All these and other Holy Fathers, together with *St. Paul* the *Apostle*, for thus saying, by *Mr. Harding's* Advice, must be held for Hereticks.

Besides, as the *Bishop* is very express in his asserting a *Bishop* and *Presbyter* to be according to *Christ's* Institution all one; He is no less so in granting that the *Bishop* has receiv'd from the *Prince* the several Privileges he has above a *Presbyter*. " I grant there be many special Privileges granted upon great and just Considerations of the meer favour of the *Prince*, that a *Priest* being found negligent, or otherwise offending in his Ministry, should be convinced and punished, not by the Temporal and Civil Magistrate, but by the Discretion of the *Bishop*.—*Mr. Harding* must remember that all these, and other like Privileges passed unto the Clergy from the *Prince*, and not from *God*; and proceed only of special Favour, and not of Right.

Part 6. Chap. 9.  
Divis. 1, & 2.

Archbishop *Whitgift* in opposing *Cartwright's* Platform about the Government of the Church, asserted to be *de Jure divino*, distinguisheth between *Spiritual* and *External* Government, and saith, "That the *External* Government hath both  
 " a *Substance* and *Matter* about which it is occupied, and also  
 " a *Form* to attain the same, consisting in certain *Offices* and  
 " *Functions*, and in the *Names* and *Titles* of them. The *Sub-*  
 " *stance* and *Matter* of Government must indeed be taken out  
 " of the *Word* of God, and consisteth in these points: That  
 " the *Word* be truly taught, the *Sacraments* rightly admini-  
 " stred, *Vertue* furthered, *Vice* repressed, and the *Church*  
 " kept in quietness and order: The *Officers* in the *Church*,  
 " whereby this Government is wrought, be *not* namely, and  
 " particularly expressed in the *Scriptures*, but in some points left  
 " to the *Discretion* and *Liberty* of the *Church* to be disposed  
 " according to the state of *Times*, *Places*, and *Persons*. Thus  
 much in his *Preface*; conform to those who went before.  
 The *Ministry* of the *Word* and *Sacraments*, and *Reprehen-*  
*sions*, &c. which belong to the *Priest*, is of God, the other  
*Offices* and *Functions*, which as he elsewhere has it, belong  
 to the external Order and Policy of the *Church*, and conse-  
 quently the *Distinction* between *Bishop* and  
*Priest*, and *Superiority* of a *Bishop* above a  
*Priest*, are only of humane Institution.

Defence, Tract. c. 3.  
 Div. 38, 39, 40, 41.

More particularly, *Cartwright* contending for a sort of *Disci-*  
*pline* which is a *Matter* of *Faith*, and necessary to *Salvation*,  
 the *Archbishop* distinguisheth between such things as are *so*  
*necessary*, that *without* them we cannot be saved, and such things  
 as are *so* necessary, that *without* 'em, we cannot so well and con-  
 veniently be saved; and then adds, To be short, "I confess,  
 " that in a *Church* collected together in *one* *Place*, and at *Li-*  
 " *ber*ty, Government is necessary with the second kind of  
 " *Necessity*, but that any one kind of Government is so ne-  
 " cessary, that without it, the *Church* cannot be saved, or,  
 " that it may not be altered into some other kind, thought to be  
 " more *Expedient*, I utterly deny; and the reasons that move  
 " me so to do, be these: The first is, because I find no one  
 " certain and perfect kind of Government prescribed or comman-  
 " ded in the *Scriptures*, to the *Church* of *Christ*; which no  
 " doubt

"doubt should have been done, if it had been a matter neces-  
 "sary to the Salvation of the Church. Secondly, Because  
 "the Essential Notes of the Church be these only; The true  
 "Preaching of the Word, and the right Administration of  
 "Sacraments:—So that notwithstanding, *Government*, or  
 "some kind of *Government* may be a part of the Church, touch-  
 "ing the outward Form and Perfection of it; yet it is not  
 "such a part of the Essence and Being, but that it may be  
 "the Church of Christ without this or that kind of Govern-  
 "ment; and therefore the *kind* of the Government is not ne-  
 "cessary unto Salvation.—There is *no certain kind of Govern-*  
 "ment or *Discipline prescribed to the Churches*, but that the same  
 "may be altered, as the Profit of the Churches requires; and  
 "out of *Gualters* he saith, Let every Church follow the man-  
 "ner of Discipline which doth most agree with the People  
 "with whom it abideth, and which seemeth to be most fit  
 "for the place and time, and let no man here rashly prescribe  
 "unto others, neither let him bind all Churches to one and  
 "the same Form.—I do deny, *that the Scriptures do set down*  
 "any one certain Form, and kind of Government of the Church to  
 "be Perpetual, for all Times, Persons, and Pla-  
 "ces: without Alteration.—It is well known,  
 "that the manner and form of Government used  
 "in the Apostles time, and expressed in the  
 "Scriptures, *neither is now, nor can, or ought*  
 "to be observed, either touching the Persons, or  
 "the Functions.—We see manifestly, that  
 "in sundry points the Government of the  
 "Church used in the Apostles times, is,  
 "and hath been of necessity altered, and that it neither may  
 "nor can be revoked; whereby 'tis plain, that any one kind  
 "of External Government perpetually to be observed, is no  
 "where in the Scripture prescribed to the Church, but the  
 "charge thereof is left to the Magistrate, so that nothing be  
 "done contrary to the Word of God. This  
 "is the Opinion of the best Writers, *Neither*  
 "*do I know* (saith the Archbishop) *any Learn-*  
 "*ed Man of a contrary Judgment.*—Either  
 "we must admit another Form now of Go-

Traſt. 17. Chap. 2.  
 Diviſ. 29.

How then can the  
 Government of the  
 Church by Bishops,  
 Archbishops, &c. be  
 Apostolical?

This was it's like U-  
 niversally received  
 by all the English  
 Clergy in Whitgifts  
 time.

"veraing

“verning the Church than was in the Apostles time, or else  
 “we must seclude the Christian Magistrate from all Authori-  
 “ty in Ecclesiastical Matters.—I am perswaded that the  
 “External Government of the Church under a Christian  
 “Magistrate must be according to the Kind and Form of  
 “Government used in the Common-wealth; else how can  
 “you make the Prince, Supream Governour of all States and  
 “Causes Ecclesiastical?—If you therefore will have the *Queen*  
 “of *England* Rule as Monarch over all her Dominions, then  
 “must you also give her leave to use one Kind and Form of  
 “Government in all, and every part of the same, and so to  
 “Govern the Church in Ecclesiastical Affairs, as she doth the  
 “Common-wealth in Civil.

Dr. *Cosins*, Chancellor to this Archbishop, in his  
 Pag. 58. Answer to the *Abstract*, asserts, “That all Chur-  
 “ches have not the same Form of Discipline, nei-  
 “ther is it necessary that they should, seeing it cannot be proved  
 “that any certain particular Form of Church Government is  
 “commended to us by the Word of God. Dr. *Low* speaks  
 to the same purpose, *Complaint of the Church*, No  
 P. 64, 66. certain Form of Government is prescribed in the  
 Word, only general Rules laid down for it. ”

Bishop *Bridges*; God hath not expressed the Form of Church  
 Government, at least not so as to bind us.

What is here mention'd of *Cosins*, *Low*, and Bishop *Bridges*,  
 I have out of Dean *Stillingfleet's* *Weapon-Salve*, and out of a  
 Learned MS. I have this following passage about *Whitaker*,  
 who, making his Remarques on St. *Hierom's* tel-  
 ling us, That the Difference between Presbyters  
 and Bishops was brought in by Men, long after  
 the Apostles, as a Remedy against Schism,  
 assures us, That *it's a Remedy almost worse than*  
*the Malady, for it begat and brought in the Pope*  
*with his Monarchy into the Church*; and this other of Bishop  
*Morton*, telling the Papists, That Power of Order, and of Jur-  
 risdiction, which they ascribe to Bishops, doth  
*de jure divino* belong to all other Presbyters and  
 particularly, That [to Ordain] is the *jus anti-*  
*quum*, the Ancient Right of Presbyters, in fine,  
 That

*Whitaker, De*  
*Ecles. Regimin.*  
*Contr. 4. q. 1.*  
*§. 29. P. 540.*  
*Col. 2.*

*Morton's Apol.*  
*Cath. l. b. i. c. 21.*  
 p. 55.

That

That Dr. *Laurence Humfrey*, and Dr. *Holland*, both of them Doctors of the Chair in *Oxford*, did teach and maintain the same Doctrine; *Holland* in the *Act*, July 9. 1608. concluded that the contrary is most false against the Scriptures, the Fathers, the Doctrine of the Church of *England*, the Schoolmen, *Lombard*, *Aquinas*, *Bonaventure*, &c.

*Humf. against Campian. Fe-suit. Part 2. P. 273.*

## C H A P. IV.

Dr. *Willet's* Sentiments much the same with the foremen-tion'd Bishops, *The Difference between a Bishop and Presbyter as of Divine Right declar'd to be Popish, and oppos'd as such. The special Consecration of Bishops was Ordained, not by a Divine Law, but by the Church, for the Dignity of their Calling. Saravia for no other Difference between a Presbyter and Bishop but in Degree. Bancroft for a Priority in degree only, holding with Dr. Robinson, Dr. Reynolds, and Dr. Fulk, whose Authorities he insists on to Confirm his Opinion about a Gradual Difference between Bishop and Presbyter.*

TO these I will add another, namely, Dr. *Andrew Willet*; who, as Dr. *Smith* observes, is by Bishop *Hall* numbred amongst those *Wor-thies* of the Church of *England*, to whom he gives this Elogy, *Stupor mundi Clerus Britannicus.* This Dr. in his *Synopsis Papismi* is very large in discussing the Difference between a Bishop and Presbyter, and in his Deter-minations in most things agreeth with the Learned Authors I have already quoted.

*In his Life of Willet.*

*Hall in his Noah's Dove.*

The grand Question under Debate is, “*Whether the Difference between Bishops and other Mi-nisters, be grounded upon the Law of God, and Institution of the Apostles?*”

*Willet's Synopf. Papismi. Contr. 5. Quest. 3. Con-cerning the Clergy. Append.*

The

The *Papists*.

Lib. I. De Cler-  
rick, c. 14.

“ *Bellarmino* (saith the Dr.) affirmeth, That  
“ the Jurisdiction of Bishops, as now it standeth  
“ in their Church, and the Difference between  
“ them, and other Presbyters is, *Jure Divino*, grounded upon  
“ the Law of God, and of such necessity, that he holdeth the  
“ contrary to be *Heresie*; and those to be Hereticks that hold  
“ this Difference to arise rather of a Politick Constitution of  
“ the Church to avoid Schism, than of the Institution of the  
“ Apostles; yea, they hold them to be no Churches at all,  
“ which are not under the Government of Bishops, but of  
“ other Overseers and Superintendents. Surely,  
Espec. in 1 “ I see not (saith one) How there can be any  
Tim. 194.h. “ Church where there is no Bishop.—

The *Protestants*.

“ Of the Difference between Bishops and Priests, there are  
“ three Opinions: The first of *Aerius*, who did hold that all  
“ Ministers should be Equal, and that a Bishop was not, nei-  
Auguſt. de Hæ- “ ther ought to be Superiour to a Priest, neither  
ref. c. 53. “ that there was any Difference at all between  
Epiphani. Hæ- “ them, which Opinion of his was counted a-  
ref. 75. “ mongst other *Heresies*: The second Opinion  
“ in the other Extream is of the *Papists*, as we  
“ have seen, that would have not only a Difference, but a  
“ Princely Pre-eminence of their Bishops over the Clergy,  
“ and that by the *Word of God*. The third Opinion is between  
“ both, that altho’ this Distinction of Bishops and Priests, as  
“ it is now received, cannot be directly proved out of Scrip-  
“ ture: yet it is very good for the Policy of the Church, to  
“ avoid Schism, and to preserve it in Unity. Of this Judg-  
ment, Bishop *Jewel* against *Harding*, sheweth  
Bish. Whitgift. “ both *Chrysoſtom*, *Ambrose* and *Hierom* to have  
“ been. And another most Reverend Prelate  
“ of our Church in these words: I know these Names be  
“ confounded in the Scriptures, but I speak according to the  
“ manner and Custom of the Church ever since the Apo-  
stles times; which saying is agreeable to that  
Epist. 19. ad “ of *St. Augustine*; *Secundum, &c.* according to  
Hieron. “ the Names of Honour, which the Use or Custom  
of

“ of the Church hath obtain'd, a Bishop is greater than a Priest ;  
 “ so that *Augustine* himself, who was no *Aerian*, doth ground  
 “ this Distinction rather upon *Ancient Custom* than the Scrip-  
 “ ture.

“ — The Difference between the Opinion of P. 275.  
 “ *Aerius* on the one part, and of *Hierom*, *An-*  
 “ *brose*, *Austin*, *Chryostom* on the other, lyeth here :  
 “ *Aerius* would have no difference at all between a Bishop and  
 “ a Priest : the Fathers above allowed a difference, holding it  
 “ to be profitable for the Peace of the Church : They only  
 “ affirm'd, That this Distinction was rather Authorized by  
 “ the Ancient Practice of the Church. than by any direct  
 “ place of Scripture. For the proof that a Bishop and Priest  
 “ were all one in the Apostles time, *St. Hierom* alledgeth di-  
 “ vers places of Scripture. The second Argument is thus :  
 “ *Archbishops and Primates have the same Right of Jurisdiction*  
 “ *over other Bishops, which Bishops have over simple Priests : But*  
 “ *their Authority and Jurisdiction is rather grounded upon the*  
 “ *Ancient Custom* of the Church, than any *Apostolical Injun-*  
 “ *ction, or Institution* in Scripture. — A fourth Argument, If  
 “ the Distinction of Bishops and Priests were by the Com-  
 “ mandment and Institution of Christ and his Apostles, it  
 “ should necessarily be enjoy'd unto all Churches ; But this  
 “ cannot, without prejudice of many Reformed Churches, be  
 “ affirmed, which have no Bishops, tho' they have other Over-  
 “ seers in their stead. — Wherefore I cannot conclude that this  
 “ *special Form of Ecclesiastical Government is absolutely prescribed*  
 “ *in the Word* : for then all those Churches, which have not  
 “ that Prescript Form, whether of Bishops or other, should  
 “ be condemned as Erroneous Churches. So then here is a  
 “ difference between our Adversaries the Papists, and us :  
 “ They say, it is of necessity to Salvation to be subject to the  
 “ *Pope*, and to *Bishops and Archbishops under him*, as necessarily  
 “ prescribed in the Word ; but so do not our *Bishops* and  
 “ *Archbishops*, which is a notable difference between the Bishops  
 “ of the Popish Church, and of the Reformed Churches. —  
 “ Let every Church use that Form which best fitteth their  
 “ state : In *External Matters* every Church is Free, not one  
 “ bound to the Prescription of another ; so they measure them-

selves by the Rule of the Word.—Now to conclude this  
 whole Matter, and to speak distinctly of every Point, that  
 it may appear how far this Difference in Ecclesiastical Fun-  
 ctions is *Divine*, and wherein *Humane*: This I judge may  
 safely without any Contradiction be affirmed, that in this  
 Distinction of the Ministers of the Church there is some-  
 what *Apostolical*, somewhat also *Political*.—First, In the calling  
 of Bishops, as they are now Ordain'd in some Reformed  
 Church, there is somewhat *Divine* and *Apostolical*: for it  
 cannot be denied, but that to have Order in the Church,  
 and to have diversity of Degrees, and Ministrations to avoid  
 confusion, proceedeth from the Institution of Christ.—  
 This then we say is agreeable to the Institution of Christ,  
 that there should be, not a Popular Equality, but a conve-  
 nient Superiority, and Priority in the Ministers of the Go-  
 spel; as St. Paul also sheweth, *First, Apostles*; *Secondly, Pro-*  
*phets, &c.* Secondly, there is somewhat *Political*, and that  
 of two sorts, as touching the Politie *Ecclesiastical*, and  
*Civil*.

To the *Ecclesiastical Politie* in the advancing the Dignity of  
 Bishops these things do appertain.

First of all St. Hierom saith, of *Confirmation* commit-  
 ted only to Bishops, *Disce hanc, &c.* Know that this Obser-  
 vation is rather for the Honour of their Priesthood, than  
 by necessity of any Law. *Hieron. advers. Luciferian.*

Secondly, The Council of *Aquisgrane*, cap. 8. saith, That  
 the *Ordination* and *Consecration* of Ministers is now reserved  
 to the Chief Minister, *Solum propter Autoritatem*; only for  
 Authority sake, lest that the Discipline of the Church be-  
 ing challenged by many, should break the Peace of the  
 Church.

Thirdly, The Author of the Book under *Hierom's* Name,  
*De 7. Ordinib.* saith, That the Consecration of Virgins, which  
 is not now in use, in the Reformed Churches, was reserved  
 to the Bishop for *Concord sake*.

Fourthly, The Jurisdiction of the Church which in time  
 past, *Hierome* saith, was committed to the *Senate*, or *College*  
*of Presbyters*, was afterward to avoid Schism, devolv'd to  
 the Bishop.

Fifthly,



" Fifthly, *S. Ambrose* saith, *Episcopi & Presbyteri, &c.* A Bishop and a Presbyter have but one Ordination; for they are both in the Priesthood. Whereby it may appear, that the *Special Consecration of Bishops* was since Ordain'd for the Dignity of that Calling. And *S. Hierom* saith, *That in the Church of Alexandria, the Presbyters did make Choice of one, whom they placed in a Higher Degree, and called him their Bishop; like as if an Army should choose a General, or the Deacons should choose an Industrious man whom they make their Archdeacon.* So it should seem that the very Election of a Bishop in those Days without any other circumstances, was his Ordination.

" Sixthly, In *Hierom's* time, it was lawful for Priests and Ministers to Preach without further Licence obtain'd from the Bishop, as it may appear *Distinct. 95. c. 6. Qui non vult Presbyteros, &c.* He that will not have a Minister to do that which is commanded him of God (that is, to Preach) would be greater than Christ, &c.— But since to stay the Humour of Contentious and Schismatical Preachers, it hath seem'd good to the Church to refer the Allowance of Preachers to the Ordinary, according to the Decree of the *Lateran Council Sub Innocent. 3. c. 3. Prater Autoritatem.* He that Preacheth privately or publickly without the Authority of the Bishop, let him be Excommunicated.

" Divers other Constitutions have been made in Ecclesiastical Politie for the maintaining the Dignity of Bishops.—  
 " —So also the *Civil State* hath augmented and enlarged the Privileges and Immunities of Bishops, which they have rather by the *Munificence of Princes*, than by *Divine Authority*, As first, the Division of Provinces and Cities unto Archbishops and Bishops, and the limitation of their Jurisdiction was brought in by the consent of Princes. Secondly, The Revenues and Lands of Bishopricks have been given by Devout and Religious Princes unto Bishops and their Successors, and divers Imperial Laws have been made in favour of the Maintenance of the Church. Thirdly, The *Titles of Honour* annexed to Bishopricks, as that they are created Barons and made Lords of the Parliament-House

“ here in *England*, have been bestowed by the Liberality of  
 “ the Kings of this Realm, not yet above 400 years since.----  
 “ Fourthly, The Judgment of *Matrimonial* and *Testamentary*  
 “ Causes, and of other such like Matters hath been reserved  
 “ unto Bishops by the Civil and Imperial Authority.— Thus  
 “ we see how in Civil Policy, the Dignity of Bishops, by the  
 “ favour of Christian Emperors, hath been enlarged: And  
 “ hitherto I have shewed, what is to be judged Political in  
 “ the Distinction of Bishops from the rest of the Clergy, both  
 “ as touching the Civil and Ecclesiastical Policy. So far *Willer*,  
 out of whom I observe,

That the Government of the Church is not *de jure divino* ;  
*That* according to the Scriptures, the Office of a Bishop, and  
 Priest is the same ; *That* a convenient Priority of Order a-  
 mongst Ministers is Divine and Apostolical ; *That* the Powers  
 of Confirmation, Ordination, and Jurisdiction are reserv'd  
 to the Bishops by Ecclesiastical constitutions only ; *That* in the  
 Beginning, a Bishop and Presbyter had but one Ordination,  
 and the Consecration of Bishops was added since for their  
 greater Dignity: In *Hierom's* days, the Election of Bishops  
 without any other circumstances being their Ordination; That  
 Priests without a Licence from the Bishop might Preach.

There is one thing more to be regarded touching the Diffe-  
 rence of Bishops and other Ministers, for says he, “ We differ  
 “ from the *Papists* in two Points. First, they say, That Bishops are  
 “ not only in a higher degree of Superiority to other Ministers,  
 “ but they are as Princes of the Clergy, and other Ministers, as  
 “ Subjects, and in all things to be commanded by them; Se-  
 “ condly, They affirm, That Bishops are *only* properly *Pastors*,  
 “ and that to them only it doth appertain to Preach, and that  
 “ other Ministers have no Authority without their Licence or  
 “ Consent to preach at all, and that not *principally*, or *chiefly*,  
 “ but *solely* and wholly to them appertaineth the Right of Con-  
 “ secrating, and giving Orders; so that the making the Bishop  
 to be of a distinct Order from the Priest, and the denying  
 the Priest to have a Power to Preach without the Bishop's  
 Licence, or any hand in Ordination, *Willer* opposeth as Popish  
 Doctrines representing the opposite Notions to have been then  
 held by the Church of *England*.

Hitherto

Hitherto the Government of the Church by Bishops, lays no claim to a Divine Right : On the contrary , it's generally asserted, that according to the Scriptures, the Priest and Bishop are the same, and that the superiority of the Bishop above the Presbyter is only by Ecclesiastick Custom, and the Government of the Church now different from what it was in the Apostles days.

*Willet* indeed saith, That for the sake of Order the *Presidence* of one above the rest is Divine and Apostolical , and towards the latter end of the Queens Reign, the Episcopal Government is affirm'd to be Apostolical, and a Divine Institution ; yet not to be *de jure divino*, and *unalterable*.

*Saravia* about the two and thirtieth year of the *Queen*, professeth, \* That the general Nature of the Evangelical Ministry, common both to Bishops and Presbyters, containeth these three things. 1. *The Preaching of the Gospel.* 2. *The Communication of the Sacraments.* 3. *The Authority of Church Government ;* and doth only plead, that in this last, the Power of Bishops and Presbyters is not equal ; but the Bishop's Power is principal in Government. Whence arises a Diversity of *Degrees* , not of *Orders* between them, and thus much he affirms hath been held by the Fathers of the Church universally ever since the Apostles days , and therefore may well be look'd on as an Unchangeable Canon of the Apostles.

\* *Hoc enim pacto fiet magis clarum, quid omnes Evangelii ministri inter se habeant commune & quid cuius ordini sit peculiare. — Ea vero in tres partes ego distribuo. Prima est Evangelii Prædicatio : altera Communicatio sacramentorum : & tertia Ecclesiasticæ Gubernationis auctoritas. — De Divers. Grad. Minist. Evarg. p. 5. Quamvis unum, & idem Evangelii Ministerium sit omnibus Pastoribus Ecclesiæ conceditum ; in hac tertia parte non parva*

*inter eos invenitur Inæqualitas propter diversos Authoritatis Gradus, quos primò Dominus statim ab initio, & postea Apostoli constituerunt. — p. 7. Primum ab ipso Domino Duos Gradus Evangelii ministrorum institutos videmus, quorum alter altero fuit superior, p. 25. Consensu totius Orbis Ecclesiarum probatur Episcoporum supra Presbyteros auctoritas. — Quod inde ab Apostolorum temporibus & patribus per universum terrarum Orbem factum ab omnibus Ecclesiis legimus usq; ad nostra tempora Canonem Apostolorum immutabilem esse judico, p. 44. c. 20.*

The Difference between *Saravia* and those who went before him lyeth here.

*Whitgift, &c.*

The Ministry of the Word and Sacraments divinely Instituted, and to continue to the End of the World; but no particular Form of Government left on Record in Scripture.

The Superiority of a Bishop above a Presbyter according to St. Hierom, rather by Custom of the Church, than an Institution of Christ.

*Saravia.*

Not only the Ministry of the Word and Sacraments, but the Form of Government, instituted by the Lord himself, delivered by the Apostles, confirm'd by the Observation of the Fathers ought to continue for ever.

The Superiority in Degree of a Bishop above a Presbyter a Divine Institution, and that St. Hierom was in the same Error with Aeri-  
*us. Dico privatam fuisse Hieronymi Opinionem, consentaneam cum Aerio, & Dei verbo contrariam,*  
p. 51.

A Year or two after *Saravia's* Book came out, Bancroft (afterwards Archbishop of *Canterbury*) publisheth a *Survey of the pretended Holy Discipline*, as he calls his Book in the *Preface*, to which he saith, "That we have a Church Government of  
"our own, which is in my conscience truly *Apostolical*, and  
"far to be preferred before any other that is receiv'd this day  
"by any Reformed Church in *Christendom*. And  
P. 105. elsewhere in the Book it self, "The *Apostles* (saith  
"he) having received the Promise of the Holy Ghost,  
"after a short time disperfed themselves (by advice) into di-  
"vers Regions; and there, by painful Preaching and Labou-  
"ring in the Lord's Harvest, they planted, no doubt, very  
"many Churches. As the number of Christians grew, and  
"had their particular Assemblies and Meetings in many Cities  
"and Countries within every one of their Circuits: they pla-  
"ced *Pastors* in every Congregation, they ordained certain  
"Apostolical men, to be Chief Assistants unto them: whom  
"they placed, some one in this particular Country, and some  
"others in sundry Cities to have the Rule and Oversight under  
"them, of the Churches there, and to redress and supply  
"such wants as were needful! And they themselves (after a  
"while,

“ while, and as they grew in age, and escaped the Cruelty of  
 “ Tyrants) remained for the most part in some Head City  
 “ within their Compass, to oversee them all, both *Churches*  
 “ *Pastors* and *Bishops*, or *Superintendents*, and to give their Di-  
 “ rections as occasions required, and as they thought it conven-  
 “ nient. When any of these *Apostolical Assistants*, or of the  
 “ *Apostles* themselves died, there were ever some worthy  
 “ Men chosen, and appointed to succeed them in those Cities  
 “ and Countries, where they had remained. For we may not  
 “ idly Dream, that when they died, the *Authority* which was  
 “ given them ceased: no more than we may, that the Autho-  
 “ rity of *Aaron* and of his Natural Sons expired with them;  
 “ besides, it is manifest by all Ecclesiastical Histories, that  
 “ many Churches were planted after their Deaths. And fur-  
 “ thermore, it could not be, but that some Churches, espe-  
 “ cially under those Apostles, that were soonest put to Death,  
 “ were (when they died) in the same case that *Crete* was, when  
 “ *Titus* was sent thither, and had therefore as much need of  
 “ a *Titus* as *Crete* had. Furthermore, who can be accounted  
 “ to be well in his wits, that will imagine that Christ should  
 “ ordain such an Authority, but for some *Threescore years*?  
 “ especially, the same Causes continuing, *why it was first in-*  
 “ *stituted*, that were before. Nay, I may boldly say, that  
 “ there was greater need for the continuance of it afterward.  
 “ For the Apostles having so great Power to work Miracles,  
 “ and by their Prayers to procure from God such strange Exe-  
 “ cutions of his Pleasure upon the contemptuous, as did fall  
 “ upon *Ananias* and his Wife (and I doubt not but in like  
 “ cases, sometimes upon some others) their *Ruling and Com-*  
 “ *manding Authority*, was not so necessary then, as it was after-  
 “ wards, when the Power to work Miracles ceased.

“ But what should I need to use many words in a matter  
 “ so apparent? After the Death of the Apostles, and of their  
 “ Assistants, *viz.* the *Bishops* placed by them, as is mentioned,  
 “ the Ecclesiastical Histories, and the Ancient Fathers, have  
 “ kept the Register of their Names, that succeeded sundry  
 “ of them, and ruled the Churches after them, as they be-  
 “ fore had ruled them. Whereupon they were called from  
 “ all Antiquity the *Apostles*, and *Apostolical* man's Successors.

“ This

“ This *Inequality* in the Ministry of the Word hath been ap-  
 “ proved and honoured by all the Ancient Fathers (none ex-  
 “ cepted) by all the General Councils, that ever were held  
 “ in *Christendom*: and by all other Men of Learning (that ever  
 “ I heard of) for many Hundred years after the Apostles time,  
 “ saying that *Aerius* the Heretick, an ambitious Person, grow-  
 “ ing into great rage, for that he missed of a Bishoprick,  
 “ which he sued for, first broached the Opinion, which is  
 “ now so currant amongst his Scholars, that there ought to be  
 “ no *difference* between a Bishop and a Priest.

Thus *Bancroft*, who seems to be of the same mind with *Sa-  
 ravia* about the Apostolicallness of the Inequality,  
 P. 390. and that he means no more, seems clear from what  
 he urges out of *Dr. Robinson*, *Dr. Reynold's* and *Fulk*,  
 in favour of his own Opinion, and his holding Ordination by  
 Presbyters without a Bishop to be valid.

“ *I have* (saith *Robinson*) *maintained it in*  
*D. Robinf. Answ.* “ *the Pulpit, that the Titles of Honour, which*  
*Exhib. to the Lord* “ *we give to Bishops, are no more repugnant to the*  
*Archbishop of Can-* “ *Word of God, than it is for us to be called*  
*terbury.* “ *Wardens, Presidents, Provofts of Colleges.*

“ *And in my Judgment, they may with as good Conscience be Go-*  
 “ *vernours of their Diocess, as we being Ministers, may be Go-*  
 “ *vernours of Colleges of Ministers. Neither do I think, that*  
 “ *this was a late devised Policy. For I am perswaded, that the*  
 “ *Angel of the Church of Ephesus, to whom S. John writeth, was*  
 “ *one Minister set over the rest. For seeing there were many Pa-*  
 “ *stors there, why should S. John write to the Angel of the Church*  
 “ *of Ephesus, and not rather to the Angels, if there had been no*  
 “ *difference amongst them? And if this Presidency had had that*  
 “ *Fault, which is reproved in Diotrephes, as St. Hierom proveth,*  
 “ *that the Jews had not corrupted the Original Text before Christ's*  
 “ *coming. Quod nunquam Dominus & Apostoli, qui cætera*  
 “ *crimina arguunt in Scribis & Pharisæis, de hoc crimine quod*  
 “ *erat maximum reticissent: So I may say, neither would our*  
 “ *Saviour, who by his Servant reprovet those Disorders, which he*  
 “ *found in the Seven Churches, have passed over this great fault*  
 “ *in silence. Therefore as Titus was left to Reform the Churches*  
 “ *throughout the whole Island of Crete; so I am perswaded that in*  
 “ *other*

" other places some of that Order of Pastors and Teachers, which  
 " is Perpetual in the Church, even in the time of the Apostles  
 " had a Prelacy amongst their Brethren, and that this Prehe-  
 " minence is approved by our Saviour. And if we come any lower,  
 " tho' the word *Episcopus*, signify that care which is required of  
 " all, and in Scripture be applied to all that have charge of Souls:  
 " yet I do not remember any one Ecclesiastical Writer that I have  
 " read, wherein that word doth not import a greater Dignity than  
 " is common to all Ministers. Neither do I think that any old  
 " Writer did under the name of Bishop, mean the Pastor of every  
 " Parish.—“ And thus far Dr. Robinson, with whom, if Ma-  
 " ster Dr. Reynolds do agree, I see not whither the Factioners  
 " will turn them. For this Dr. in his Book against *Hart*, saith,  
 " That in the Church of Ephesus, tho' it had sundry Elders and  
 " Pastors (He useth these two words in one signification, as  
 " by the Sentence going before is manifest) to guide it, yet  
 " amongst those sundry, was there one Chief, whom our Saviour  
 " calleth the Angel of the Church, and writeth that to him, which  
 " by him the rest should know. And this is he whom afterwards in  
 " the Primitive Church, the Fathers called Bishop. For, &c. the  
 " name of Bishop, common (before) to all Elders and Pastors of  
 " the Church, was then by the usual Language of the Fathers ap-  
 " propriated to him, who had the Presidentship over Elders. Thus  
 " are certain Elders reproved by Cyprian Bishop of Carthage, for  
 " receiving to the Communion them who had fallen in time of  
 " Persecution, before the Bishop had advised of it, with them  
 " and others.

" Here then you have two for Oxford, touching the Lan-  
 " guage of the Ancient Fathers when they speak of Bishops.  
 " Now you shall have a Cambridge Man's Opinion, I mean  
 " Dr. Fulke, who in his Confutation of the *Rhemish* Notes upon  
 " the New Testament writeth thus, Amongst the Clergy for  
 " Order and seemly Government, there was always one Principal,  
 " to whom by long use of the Church the name of Bishop or Super-  
 " intendent hath been applied, which room Titus exercised in  
 " Crete; Timothy, in Ephesus; and others in other Places.  
 " Therefore altho' in the Scripture a Bishop, and an Elder is of  
 " one Order, and Authority in Preaching the Word, and Admini-  
 " stration of the Sacraments (as Hierom doth often confess) yet

“ in Government by ancient use of Speech, He is only called a Bi-  
 “ shop, which is in the Scriptures called *Πρεσβυτερος*, *πρεσβυτῶς*, or  
 “ *ἐπίσκοπος*. Rom. 12. 8. 1 Tim. 5. 17. Heb. 13. 17. that is,  
 “ Chief in Government, to whom the Ordination, or Consecration  
 “ by Imposition of hands, was always Principally committed, and  
 “ which most ancient Form of Government, when *Aetius* would  
 “ take away, it was noted amongst his other Errors. Hitherto  
 “ Dr. *Fulke*; so as hereby I trust it may appear to Master *Cart-*  
 “ *wright*’s Reproach, and to all their Shames that shall pretend  
 “ any Authority from the ancient Fathers to impugn the Right  
 “ Honourable and Lawful calling of *Bishops*, not *Parsons* in  
 “ every Parish, but *Bishops* in their *Diocesses* and *Provinces*,  
 “ appointed in the *Apostles* times, for the right Order and Go-  
 “ vernment of the Church of *Christ*.

So far *Bancroft*, who introduceth these three great Men’s  
 Authority to countenance the *Presidency*, or *Chieftly* of the  
 Bishop over *Presbyters* in Government, as *Apostolical*, tho’  
*Fulke* goes no higher than the *Custom* of the Church, agreeing  
 with *Jewel* and *Whitgift*, and it must be observed, that they  
 make not the Bishop to be a distinct Order from that of *Pres-*  
*byters*, nor deny the *Presbyters* to be *Pastors*; nor affirm the  
 Invalidity of the *Presbyterial* Ordination, only that the *Ordina-*  
 tion by Imposition of hands, was *Principally* committed to  
 the *Bishops*; and as *Archbishop Spotiswood* reports, *Bancroft*

*Histor. Church of*  
*Scotland, lib. 7.*  
 P. 514.

held the Ordination only by *Presbyters*, to be  
 valid and lawful. *Spotiswood* has it in these  
 words, “ A Question was moved by *Dr. An-*  
 “ *dreus* Bishop of *Ely*, touching the *Consecra-*  
 “ tion of the *Scottish* *Bishops*; who, as he said, must first be  
 “ *Ordained Presbyters*, as having received no Ordination from  
 “ a Bishop. The *Archbishop of Canterbury*, *Dr. Bancroft*, who  
 “ was by, maintained, *That thereof there was no necessity, seeing*  
 “ *where Bishops could not be had, the Ordination given by Presby-*  
 “ *ters must be esteemed Lawful; otherwise that it might be doubted*  
 “ *if there were any Lawful Vocation in most of the Reformed Chur-*  
 “ *ches.* This applauded to by the other *Bishops*, *Ely* acquiesced,  
 “ and at the day and in the place appointed the three *Scottish*  
 “ *Bishops* were consecrated.



## C H A P. V.

*The Learned Hooker, and Bishop Bilson's Opinion impartially stated, differing but little from Saravia and Bancroft.*

**T**HE Learned and Judicious *Hooker* seems also to be of the same mind with *Saravia* and *Bancroft*, for in his *Third Book*, it's only Polity in the general, that in his Opinion is necessary to the several particular Churches;

“For, (saith he) even the several Societies of Lib. 3. Sect. 1. p. 66. Edit. 61.

“Christian Men, unto every of which the name

“of a Church is given, with addition betokening severally,

“as the Church of *Rome*, *Corinth*, *Ephesus*, *England*, and so

“the rest, must be endued with correspondent general Pro-

“perties belonging unto them, as they are Publick Christian

“Societies. And of such Properties common unto all Socie-

“ties Christian, it may not be denied, that one of the very

“chiefest is *Ecclesiastical Polity*. Which word I therefore the

“rather choose because the name of *Government*, as common-

“ly Men understand it in ordinary speech, doth not comprize

“the largeness of that whereunto in this Question it is applied.

“For when we speak of *Government*, what doth the greater

“part conceive thereby, but only the exercise of *Superiority*

“peculiar unto *Rulers*, and *Guides* of others? To our pur-

“pose therefore the name of *Church-Polity* will better serve,

“because it containeth both *Government*, and also whatsoe-

“ver besides belongeth to the Ordering of the Church in

“Publick. Neither is any thing in this degree more neces-

“sary than *Church Polity*, which is a form of Ordering Pub-

“lick Spiritual Affairs of the Church of God.

Thus *Hooker* looks on Polity to be necessary to the Church,

and why necessary, but because God himself is the Author

of it. “It is not possible that any Form of Polity,

“much less of Polity Ecclesiastical should be good, Lib. 3. §. 2.

“unless

“ unless God himself be Author of it. *Those things which are not of God (saith Tertullian) they can have no other than God's Adversary for their Author.* Be it whatsoever in the Church of God, if it be not of God, we hate it.

But then he distinguisheth between what is of God by the *Law of Nature*, and the *Revelation* made of the *Divine Will* in Scripture. “ Of God it must be either as those things sometimes were, which God supernaturally revealed, and so delivered them unto *Moses* for Government of the Commonwealth of *Israel*; or else as those things which Men find out by help of that Light which God hath given them unto that end. The very Law of Nature it self, which no man can deny but God hath intituted, is not of God unless that be of God, whereof God is the Author as well this latter way as the former.

The Controversie between *Hooker*, and the *Old Nonconformists* was, *Whether any particular Form of Polity be so of God, that it be set down in Scripture?* and the *Noncons* asserted. That no Form of Church Polity was lawful, or of God, unless God be so the Author of it that it be also set down in Scripture. *Hooker* on the contrary, “ That he which affirmeth Speech to be necessary amongst all men throughout the World, doth not thereby import, that all men must necessarily speak one kind of Language; Even so the necessity of Polity, and Regiment in all Churches may be held without *kolding any one certain form to be necessary in them all*; so far He, who doth moreover thus reason with the *Noncons*: “ You should tell us plainly, whether your meaning be that it must be there set down in *whole*, or in *Parts*. For if *wholly*, shew what one form of Policy ever was so; your own to be so taken out of Scripture, you'll not affirm, neither do you deny that in *part* even *this*, which you so much oppugn is also from thence taken. Again, you should tell us, whether only that be taken out of Scripture, which is *actually* and *particularly* there set down; or else, that also, which the *general Principles* and *Rules* of Scripture *Potentially* contain. The one way you cannot so much as pretend that all the Parties of your own Discipline are in Scripture; and the *other* way your mouths are stop'd, when you  
“ would

“ would plead against all other Forms besides your own ; fee-  
 “ ing the general Principles are such as do not particularly  
 “ prescribe any one , but fundry , may equally be consonant  
 “ unto the general Axioms of the Scripture.

After the most impartial Enquiry, this Learned Man’s Judg-  
 ment about the *Polity* of the Church appears to me to be thus:  
 That tho’ *Polity* in general be necessary to the Church ; yet it’s  
 not necessary that any one compleat Form of Church

*Polity* be in Scripture. Besides, it’s his conclusion, Sect. 10. p. 82.

“ That neither God’s being Author of Laws,

“ for Government of his Church, nor his committing them  
 “ unto Scripture, is any reason sufficient, wherefore all Chur-  
 “ ches should for ever be bound to keep them without change.---

“ Again, if we did seek to maintain that which most advan-  
 “ tageth our own Cause , the very best way for us and the  
 “ strongest against them , [viz. The Noncons.] were to hold  
 “ even as they do, That in Scripture there must needs be found

“ some particular Form of Church Polity , which God hath insti-  
 “ tuted, and which for that very cause belongeth to all Churches,  
 “ to all times. But with any such partial Eye to respect our

“ selves, and by cunning to make those things seem the truest,  
 “ which are the fittest to serve our purpose, is a thing , which  
 “ we neither like , nor mean to follow. Wherefore that,

“ which we take to be generally true concerning the Dutabi-  
 “ lity of Laws, the same we have plainly delivered , as being  
 “ perswaded of nothing more than we are of this, that whe-

“ ther it be in matter of Speculation, or of Practice, no Un-  
 “ truth can possibly avail the Patron and Defender long, and  
 “ that things most Truly are likewise most be-

“ hovefully spoken.—And to make manifest Sect. 11. p. 90.

“ that from Scripture, we offer not to derogate

“ the least thing that truth thereunto doth claim ; in as much  
 “ as by us it is willingly confess’d, that the Scripture of God

“ is a Storehouse abounding with inestimable Treasures of Wif-  
 “ dom and Knowledge in many kinds—yea, even that mat-  
 “ ters of Ecclesiastical Polity are not therein omitted , but

“ taught also , albeit not so taught as those other things before-  
 “ mentioned. For so perfectly are those things taught, that  
 “ nothing ever can need to be added , nothing ever cease to

“ be

“be necessary: *These* on the contrary side, as being of a far  
 “other Nature and Quality, not so *strictly* nor *everlastingly*  
 “commanded in Scripture, but that unto the compleat Form  
 “of *Church-Polity* much may be *requisite*, which the Scripture  
 “*teacheth not, and much, which it hath taught, become unrequi-*  
 “*site*, sometime, because we *need not* use it, sometimes also  
 “because we *cannot*. In which respect for my own part, altho’  
 “I see that certain Reformed Churches, the *Scottish* especially,  
 “and *French* have not that which best agreeth with the Sacred  
 “Scriptures, I mean, the Government which is by *Bishops* ;  
 “inasmuch as both these Churches are fallen under a different  
 “kind of Regiment; which to remedy, it is for the one alto-  
 “gether too late, and to soon for the other during their pre-  
 “sent Affliction and Trouble.

He adds, “The Matters wherein Church-Polity  
 P. 92. “is conversant, are the Publick religious Duties  
 “of the Church, as the *Administration of the Word,*  
 “and *Sacraments, Prayers, Spiritual Censures,* and the like; To  
 “these the Church stands always bound.

“*Laws of Polity,* are Laws which appoint in what manner  
 “these Duties shall be performed.

“In their performance, the *first* thing in *Polity* required is  
 “a *Difference of Persons* in the Church, without which diffe-  
 “rence, those Functions cannot in orderly sort be executed.  
 “Hereupon we hold, That *God’s Clergy are a State,* which  
 “*hath been, and will be as long as there is a Church upon Earth,*  
 “*necessary by the plain Word of God himself.*

Again, “where the Clergy are any great Multitude, *Order*  
 “doth necessarily require that by *Degrees* they be distinguished:  
 “we hold there have ever been and ever ought to be in such  
 “case, at leastwise *two sorts* of Ecclesiastical Persons, the one  
 “*subordinate* unto the other, as to the *Apostles* in the begin-  
 “ing, and to *Bishops* always since, we find plainly both in  
 “Scripture, and in all Ecclesiastical Records other Ministers  
 “of the Word and Sacraments have been.

“Moreover, it cannot enter into any man’s conceit to think  
 “it lawful, that every man which listeth, should take upon  
 “him charge in the Church; and therefore a *Solemn Admit-*  
 “*tance* is of such necessity, that without it there can be no  
 “*Church-Polity.* “These

“These are the *Principal* and *Perpetual* parts in Ecclesiastical  
“Polity.

Thus much in the *Third Book*, where he looks on Church-  
Polity in the general and some special parts thereof, such as a  
distinction between *Bishops* and *Presbyters*, and a *Subordination*  
of the *Presbyter* to the *Bishop* to be agreeable to the Word of  
God, but no compleat form of Church Polity to be found in the  
Scripture, neither are all the Laws of God concerning the Govern-  
ment of the Church *Immutable*, and *Everlasting*: We must  
go to the *Seventh Book* for a more distinct account of the  
Office of a *Bishop*, and the difference between him and a *Pres-  
byter*; where 'tis thus:

“But to let go the Name [*Bishop*] and to  
“come to the very Nature of that *thing*, which Lib. 7. Sect. 2.  
Pag. 5.  
“is thereby signified in all kinds of Regiment,  
“whether Ecclesiastical or Civil: as there are sundry Opera-  
“tions Publick, so likewise great *Inequality* there is in the  
“same Operations, some being of *Principal* respect, and  
“therefore not fit to be dealt in by every one to whom Pub-  
“lick Actions, and those of Good Importance, are notwith-  
“standing well, and fitly enough committed. From hence  
“have grown those different Degrees of Magistrates, or Pub-  
“lick Persons, even *Ecclesiastical*, as well as Civil. Amongst  
“*Ecclesiastical* Persons therefore *Bishops* being Chief ones, a  
“*Bishop's* Function must be defined by that wherein his  
“*Chiefly* consisteth.

“A *Bishop* is a Minister of God, unto whom with permanent con-  
“tinuance, there is given not only Power of administering the Word  
“and Sacraments, which Power other *Presbyters* have, but  
“also a further Power to Ordain Ecclesiastical Persons, and a  
“Power of *Chiefly* in Government over *Presbyters*, as well as Lay-  
“men; A Power to be by way of *Jurisdiction*, a *Pastor* even to  
“*Pastors* themselves. Those things incident unto the *Bishop's*  
“Office, which do properly make him a *Bishop*, cannot be  
“common unto him with other *Pastors*. Now even as *Pa-  
“stors*, so likewise *Bishops* being *Principal* *Pastors*, are ei-  
“ther at *Large*; or else with *Restraint*. At *Large*, when the  
“subject of their Regiments is indefinite, and not tied to any  
“certain Place; *Bishops* with *Restraint*, are they whose Regi-  
“ment

ment over the Church is contained within some definite local compass, beyond which compass their Jurisdiction reacheth not; such therefore, we always mean, when we speak of that Regiment by Bishops, which we hold a thing most *Lawful, Divine and Holy* in the Church of Christ.

But what doth He mean by *Chieftly* in Government? In answer unto this, he tells us how far the old *Noncons* went in the grant of an *Inequality*, and how much further He goeth.

They which cannot brook (saith he) the Superiority which Bishops have, do, notwithstanding themselves, admit that some kind of *Difference and Inequality* there may be *lawfully* amongst Ministers. *Inequality* touching Gifts and Graces they grant—Again, a *Priority of Order* they deny not, but that there may be, yea, such a *Priority* as maketh one man amongst many a *Principal Actor* in those things, whereunto fundry of them must necessarily concur, so that the same be admitted only *during the time of such Actions, and no longer*.—The *Inequality* they complain of is, That one *Minister of the Word and Sacraments* should have a *permanent Superiority* above another, or in any sort a *Superiority of Power Mandatory, Judicial, and Coercive* over other Ministers.

Thus you see how far the old *Noncons* could go, and no farther, and immediately after, he tells us how much farther the Church of *England* at that time went; for, says he, “By Us on the contrary side, *Inequality*, even such *Inequality*, as unto Bishops, being Ministers of the Word and Sacraments, is granted a *Superiority Permanent* above Ministers; yea, a *Permanent Superiority of Power Mandatory, Judicial and Coercive* over them is maintained a thing *Allowable, Lawful, and Good*.”

In two things *Hooker* differs from the old *Noncons*.

1. They make the Superiority, or Priority of Order to be but *Temporary*: *Hooker* makes it *Permanent*.
2. They deny the Bishops having a Power over other Pastors, that is, *Mandatory, Judicial, and Coercive*: *Hooker* affirms it.

There is one thing more to be enquired into, *viz.* whether He grants to Presbyters the *Pastoral Office*? He calls them

*Pastors,*

*Pastors*, and in his very definition of a Bishop, makes the Bishop to be a *Pastor of Pastors* (and of Presbyters) and he calls the Bishop but *Principal Pastor*, and makes him to have a *Chieftie* in Regiment above Presbyters; as if he held that the Presbyter had some, tho' not so great a share in the Government; and out of *Austin*, "That a Bishop is a *Presbyter Superior*, and in several places a *Bishop* is of a *Higher Degree* than "a Presbyter. And altho' in his *Third Book*, he makes the Episcopal Office to be a part of Church Polity perpetual, as tho' the Episcopacy had been *de jure Divino*, and *Immutable*; yet in this *Seventh Book*, in clearing the sense of *St. Jerom*, he is expressly against the *Immutability* and *Unchangeableness* of the Bishop's Superiority; as if he held it to be *Apostolical* in the same manner Bishop *Downe* doth, of whom hereafter.

The words of *St. Hierom*, on which he puts his own Comment, are these. *As therefore Presbyters do know, that the Custom of the Church makes them subject to the Bishop, which is set over them; so let Bishops know, that Custom rather than the Truth of any Ordinance of the Lord's maketh them greater than the rest, and that with Common Advice they ought to Govern the Church.* To this *Hooker* replies, "To clear the sense of these words therefore: Laws, which the Church from the beginning universally hath observ'd were some delivered by Christ himself, with a Charge to keep them to the worlds End, as the Law of Baptizing, and administering the Holy Eucharist; some brought in afterwards by the Apostles; yet not without the special Direction of the Holy Ghost, as occasions did arise. Of this sort are those *Apostolical Orders*, and *Laws*, whereby Deacons, Widows, Virgins were first appointed in the Church.

"This Answer to *St. Hierom* seemeth dangerous, I have qualified it as I may by addition of some words of restraint; yet I satisfie not my self in my Judgment it would be altered. Now whereas *Jerom*, doth term the Government of Bishops by restraint, an *Apostolical Tradition*, acknowledging thereby the same to have been the Apostles own Institution, it may be demanded how these two will stand together; namely, That the *Apostles* by Divine Instinct, should be as *Jerom* confesseth, the Authors of that Regiment, and yet the Cu-  
" from

“*from* of the Church be accounted (for so by *Jerom* it may  
“seem to be in this place accounted) the Chiefest prop that  
“upholdeth the same? *To this we answer*, That as much as the  
“whole Body of the Church, hath Power to ALTER with  
“general consent, and upon necessary occasions, even the Po-  
“sitive Laws of the Apostles, if there be no Commandment  
“to the contrary, and it manifestly appears to her, that change  
“of times have clearly taken away the very reason of God’s  
“first Institution as by sundry Examples may be most clearly  
“proved; what Laws the Universal Church might change,  
“and doth not; if they have long continued without any *alte-*  
“*ration*; it seemeth that *St. Jerom* ascribeth the continuance  
“of such *Positive Laws*, tho’ instituted by God himself, to the  
“*Judgment* of the Church. For they which might Abrogate a  
“Law, and do not, are properly said to Uphold, to Esta-  
“blish it; and to give it *Being*. The Regiment therefore,  
“whereof *Jerom* speaketh, being *Positive*, and consequently  
“not absolutely necessary, but of a *Changeable Nature*, be-  
“cause there is no *Divine Voice*, which in expresse words  
“forbiddeth it to be changed, He might imagine both that it  
“came by the *Apostles* by very *Divine Appointment at the*  
“*first*, and notwithstanding after a sort, said to stand in force,  
“rather by the *Custom* of the Church, choosing to continue  
“it, than by the necessary constraint of any Commandment  
“from the Word, requiring *Perpetual Continuance* thereof.  
Thus *Hooker*, who a little after says, “Bishops albeit they  
“may avouch with Conformity of Truth, that their Autho-  
“rity hath thus descended even from the very Apostles them-  
“selves; yet the *Absolute and Everlasting* continuance of it  
“they cannot say that any Commandment of the Lord doth in-  
“joyn; And therefore must acknowledge, that the Church  
“hath Power by *Universal Consent* upon urgent cause to  
“take it away, if thereunto she be constrained through the  
“*Proud, Tyrannical, and unreformable Dealings* of her Bishops.—  
“Wherefore lest Bishops forget themselves, as if none on  
“Earth had *Authority* to touch *their States*, let them continu-  
“ally bear in mind, that it is rather the force of *Custom*,  
“whereby the Church, having so long found it good to con-  
“tinue under the Regiment of her vertuous Bishops, doth  
“Still



“ still uphold, maintain, and honour them in that respect,  
 “ than that any such *true*, and *Heavenly Law* can be shewed,  
 “ by the Evidence whereof it may of a Truth appear, That  
 “ the Lord himself hath appointed Presbyters for ever to be  
 “ under the Regiment of Bishops, in what sort soever they  
 “ behave themselves.

This Answer of the Learned *Hooker* makes it manifest, that tho’ he held the *Institution* of Episcopal Superiority to be *Apostolical*; yet he was not of Opinion that ’twas *unalterable*. And altho’ he held it *Apostolical*, yet suggests as if there had been a Church Government instituted *before* the Episcopal took place. “The Apostles of our Lord (says he) did according unto those Directions, which were given them from above, erect Churches in all such Cities as received the Word of Truth, the Gospel of God: All Churches by them erected, received from them the *same Faith*, the *same Sacraments*, the *same Form of Publick Regiment*. The Form of Regiment established by them at first was, That the Laity or People should be subject unto a College of *Ecclesiastical Persons*, which were in every such City appointed for that purpose. These in their Writings they term sometime *Presbyters*, sometimes *Bishops*.—That in process of time the Apostles appointed under them Bishops, of an Order *Superiour above Presbyters*; the cause wherefore they did appoint under themselves such Bishops as were not every where at the first, is said to have been those *Strifes* and *Contentions*, for remedy whereof, whether the Apostles alone did conclude of such a Regiment, or else *they*, together with the whole Church, judging it a fit and needful Policy, did agree to receive it for a *Custom*, no doubt but being established by them, on whom the Holy Ghost was poured in so abundant measure for the ordering of Christ’s Church, it had either *Divine Appointment* beforehand; or *Divine Approbation* afterwards.

This passage of *Hooker*, moves me to think he very much agreed with his most Reverend Metropolitan, Archbishop *Whigift*, who vehemently asserts an actual change of Church Government in the Primitive Times, as well as the changeableness of it in all Ages of the Church. There are other

intimations in this Learned Author, which oblige me to conclude that the Church of *England* was not in his days come to a steady Resolution either about the Nature of a Particular Church *infra seeculi*, or of the whole belonging to the Episcopal Office.

Touching the Nature of a Particular Church of the lowest Rank, whether Parochial or Diocesan, was not much with him; for speaking of the Difficulties which in some respects are found to be between the present Bishops, and the Bishops in the Primitive times, he grants that many things there are in the State of Bishops, which the times have changed, saying, "That may y

Lib. 7. Sect. 2.

P. 4.

"a Parsonage at this day is larger than some ancient Bishopricks were.—To Men that have any part of Skill, what more evident and plain in Bishops than that Augmentation and Diminution in their Precincts, Allowances, Privileges, and such like, do make a Difference indeed; but no Essential Difference between one Bishop and another. But a

*Treatise of Episcopacy*, chap. 5.  
Page. 49.

Learned Nonconformist assures us, *That he shall try among other things, whether the Name of a Bishoprick will make a Parsonage and a Diocess to be Ejusdem speciei, and whether Magnitude do not make a specifick Difference between the Sea, and a Rivulet or a Glass of Water, or between a Ship and a Nutshell.* And I may add, that if there be no Essential Difference between a Bishoprick no larger than a Parsonage, and a Diocesan Bishoprick, the Controversie between the Church of *England* and generality of Nonconformists, may touching Church Government, be determined by such Condescensions made by the *Church* to the Dissenters, as are short of an *Essential* Alteration to Episcopacy. Let there be as many Bishopricks as there are considerable Parsonages, or Parishes indowed, and a Provision made for the Presbyters who are to assist the Bishops in the Government of these little Churches, and a Superiority of the Bishop above the Presbyters, or a Chiefty in the Regiment will be no longer a bone of Contention.

As to what belongs to the Episcopal Function as Different from the Presbyters, it's held by some that *Ordination, Confirmation* and *Jurisdiction*, are proper to it; Let us see then

*Hooker's*

Hooker's Judgment for the first Point, " There  
 " may be (saith he) sometimes very just and  
 " sufficient Reasons to all Ordination made  
 " without a Bishop. The whole Church Visible being the  
 " true-Original-Subject of all Power, it hath not ordinarily al-  
 " lowed any other than Bishops alone to Ordain: Howbeit, as  
 " the ordinary course is ordinarily in all things to be observed,  
 " so it may in some Cases not unnecessary, that we decline  
 " from the ordinary ways. The Power of Ordination is ap-  
 " propriated to the Bishop by the Churches Allowance and no  
 " otherwise, and the same Church allowing Presbyters to Or-  
 " dain, their Ordination is Good, so that Ordination is not pro-  
 " per to a Bishop *quarto modo*, for it doth not *Conuenire* to him  
 " *semper & soli*; and therefore he adds in the next Page, " That  
 " we are not simply without Exception to urge a  
 " lineal Descent of Power from the Apostles by con- Lib. 7. Sect. 6.  
 " tinued succession of Bishops in every Effectual pag. 14.  
 " Ordination.

For the second Point, " I make not Confirmation part  
 " of that Power which hath always belonged only unto Bi-  
 " shops; because in some places the *Custom* was that Presby-  
 " ters might also Confirm in the absence of a Bishop.

Touching the last Point, How Bishops together with Pres-  
 " byters have used to Govern the Churches under  
 " them: " It is by *Zonaras* (saith he) somewhat Lib. 7. Sect. 7.  
 " plainly and at large declared, That the Bishop pag. 17.  
 " had his Seat on high in the Church above the Residue, which  
 " were present; that a number of Presbyters did always there  
 " assist him, and that in the Oversight of the People, those  
 " Presbyters were after a sort the Bishops *Coadjutors*. The  
 " Bishops and Presbyters who together with him governed  
 " the Church, are for the most part by *Ignatius* joyntly men-  
 " tion'd; They are Counsellors and Assistants of the Bishop.

Thus this great Man grants: That tho' Government in ge-  
 " neral be necessary to the Church, yet no one particular kind  
 " of Government is so; That the Scriptures do not make the  
 " Episcopal Government unalterable; That the Power of confer-  
 " ring Orders, is not by a Divine Law so appropriate to the  
 " Bishops, that in no case an Ordination by Presbyters can be  
 " valid,

valid; That the Church Visible is the *true-Original-Subject* of all Power, and can alter the Government of the Church; That Confirmation is not essential to the Office of a Bishop; That Presbyters have a share in the Government; That the Difference between the Bishop and Presbyter is in the Degree, the Bishop having a Chieftly in the Government, and Presbyters the Bishops Coadjutors, Assistants, Advisers and Counsellors.

The Learned *Bilson*, afterwards Bishop of *Winchester*, speaking of the Controversie between the Old Non-conformists and the Church of *England*, expresseth himself in these words. " Thus far we joyn, " That to prevent Dissention and Confusion, " there must needs, even by God's Ordinance, " be a President, or Ruler of every Presbytery; " which Conclusion because it is warranted by " the Grounds of Nature, Reason and Truth, and hath the " Example of the Church of God, *before, Under and after* the " Law, we accept as Irrefutable, and lay it as the *Ground-work* " of all that ensueth. But whether this *Presidentship* did in the " Apostles times, and by their Appointment go round by " course to all the Pastors and Teachers of every Presbytery, " or were by Election committed to One chosen as the fittest " to supply that Place so long as He discharged his Duty without blame, that is a main point betwixt us. —

But more particularly he adds, " In the Apostles I observe " four things needful for the first Founding and Erecting of " the Church, and four other Points that must be *Perpetual* in " the Church of Christ. These are *the Dispensing the Word,* " *Administring the Sacraments, Imposing of Hands, and guiding* " *the Keys to shut or open the Kingdom of God.* The first two " must be general to all Pastors and Presbyters of Christ's " Church; but so do not the other two. — I have largely debated and made it plain, as well by the Scriptures as by other " Ancient Writers past all Exception, there have always been " selected some of greater Gifts than the Residue to succeed " in the Apostles Places, to whom it belonged, both to moderate the Presbyters of each Church, and to take the special " Charge of Imposition of Hands, and this their *Singularity* in " *Succeeding,*

“ *Succeeding*, and *Superiority* in *Ordaining*, have been observed  
 “ from the Apostles times as the *Peculiar* and *Substantial* marks  
 “ of *Episcopal Power* and *Calling*.

“ The *Power of the Keys*, and *Right to Impose Hands* (by  
 which he always means the *Power to Ordain Ministers*, and  
*Excommunicate Sinners*) belong unto the *Bishop*, distinguishing  
 “ him from a *Presbyter*.

“ What the things are, which must abide for *Chap. 12. p. 208.*  
 “ ever in the Church I shewed before; it shall

“ suffice now to rehearse them; namely, *Power to Preach the*  
 “ *Word*, and *Administer the Sacraments*, the *Right use of the*  
 “ *Keys*, and *Imposition of Hands*.—These four parts for *Bre-*  
 “ *veties sake*, I often reduce to two *Branches*, which are *Do-*  
 “ *ctrine* and *Discipline*, comprizing in *Doctrine* the *Dividing of*  
 “ the *Word* and *Dispensing of the Sacraments*, and referring  
 “ the rest, I mean, the *Publick use of the Keys*, and *Imposition*  
 “ of *Hands to the Discipline*, or *Regiment of the Church*.

“ The *Discipline and Government of the*  
 “ *Church*, (I mean the *Power of the Keys*, and *Ch. 12. p. 213.*  
 “ *Imposing of Hands*) are two parts of *Apo-*

“ *stolick Authority*, which must remain in the *Church*  
 “ for ever. These *Keys* are double, the *Key of Knowledge*, an-  
 “ nexed to the *Word*, the *Key of Power* referred to the *Sacra-*  
 “ *ments*; Some late *Writers* by urging the one, abolish the  
 “ other; howbeit, I see no sufficient *Reason* to countervail  
 “ the *Scriptures* and *Fathers*, that *Defend*, and *Retain* both.

“ The *Key of Knowledge* must not be doubted of, our *Sa-*  
 “ *viour* in express words nameth it. *Wo be to you Interpreters*  
 “ *of the Law*, for ye have taken away the *Key of Knowledge*.

“ The *Key of Power* standeth in these words of *Christ* to *Peter*,  
 “ *I will give thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven*, and  
 “ *whatsoever thou shalt bind on Earth, shall be bound in Hea-*  
 “ *ven*, &c. And likewise to all his *Apostles*, *What-*

“ *soever ye bind on Earth, &c.*—It resteth in this *P. 218.*  
 “ place to be considered to whom those *Keys* were

“ committed, whether *Equally to all Presbyters*, or *Chiefly to*  
 “ *Pastors*, and *Bishops*. The like must be done for *Imposition*  
 “ of *Hands*, whether that also pertain'd *indifferently to all*, or  
 “ *specially to Bishops*.

This is the State of the Point in Controversie; namely, *Whether the Power of the Keys, and that of Imposition of Hands belong Equally and Indifferently to all Presbyters, and Bishops; or whether they do not belong chiefly and specially to Bishops: But whether the one or the other be affirm'd,* 'twill unavoidably follow, that these Powers in a sense belong to both. Thus much is supposed in the very state of the Question, which is not, whether these Powers do not at all belong to Presbyters, but whether they do belong so much to Presbyters as unto Bishops, so that the holding them, to belong *chiefly and specially* unto the Bishop, implies, that they do, tho' in a lesser *Degree*, belong unto *Presbyters*. They appertain both to the Presbyter and Bishop, but not *Equally*, to the Bishop *chiefly and specially*. Now Conform hereunto the Learned *Bilson* saith, "The Bishop then, *Ch. 14. p. 293.* "or *President of the Presbyters* (for I stand not on "Names, while I discuss their Powers) is by "Christ's own Mouth pronounced to be the Angel of the "Church; that is, the *Chief Steward* over God's Household, "and Overseer of his Flock.—And touching the *P. 319.* "Presbyter's Power, He adds, That at first the "Presbyters sate with the Bishop as *Assessors*, and "Consenters, before Synods undertook such Causes; But after, "when once Councils began to have the Hearing of Grievances, then sate the Presbyters with the Bishop only, as *Beholders* and *Advisers* of his Judgment.—The Private use of the "Keys in appointing Offenders upon the Ac- *P. 317.* "knowledging their Sins, for a time to forbear the "Lord's Table, we deny not to Presbyters.

However the Ambiguity of the Name of *Bishop*, and Community of many things incident, and appertinent both to Bishops and Presbyters, urged him to lay down certain Peculiar Marks and Parts of the Bishop's Office, whereby they are always Distinguished from Presbyters, and never Confounded with them, either in Scriptures, Councils or Fathers. "There were many Prerogatives (says "he) appropriate unto the Bishop, by the Authority of the Canons and Custom of the Church, such as "Reconciling of Penitents, Confirmation of Infants, and others "that

" that were Baptized, by *Laying on their Hands, Dedication*  
 " of Churches, &c. But the things *Proper* to Bishops, which  
 " might not be Common to Presbyters, were *Singularity*  
 " in *Succeeding*, and *Superiority* in Ordaining. These two, the  
 " Scriptures and Fathers reserve *only* to Bishops, they never  
 " Communicate them to Presbyters. \* The *Singularity* of one  
 " Pastor in every place preserveth the Peace and Unity of the  
 " Churches, and stoppeth Schisms and Dissentions,  
 " for which Cause they were first Ordained by the 246.  
 " Apostles. This is a certain Rule to Distinguish Bi-  
 " shops from Presbyters, the Presbyters were many in every  
 " City, of whom the Presbytery consisted. Bishops were al-  
 " ways *Singular*, that is, one in a City, and no more, except  
 " another intruded (which the Church of Christ counted a  
 " Schism) or, else an *Helper* were given in respect of extream  
 " and feeble age; in which case the Power of the latter  
 " ceased in the presence of the former. And this *Singularity*  
 " of one Pastor in each place descended from the Apostles  
 " and their Scholars in all the famous Churches of the  
 " World by a *Perpetual Chair of Succession*, and doth to  
 " this day continue; but where Abomination or Desolation,  
 " I mean, Heresie or Violence, interrupt it.—The second  
 " assured sign of Episcopal Power, is *Imposition of Hands* to  
 " Ordain *Presbyters* and *Bishops*, for as *Pastors* were to have  
 " some to assist them in their Charge, which were  
 " *Presbyters*, so were they to have others to succeed P. 248.  
 " them in their Places, which were *Bishops*. And  
 " this Right by Imposing Hands to Ordain *Presbyters* and Bi-  
 " shops in the Church of Christ; was at first derived from  
 " the Apostles unto Bishops, and not unto Presbyters; and  
 " hath for these fifteen Hundred Years without Example or  
 " Instance to the contrary, till this our Age, remained in  
 " Bishops, and not in Presbyters.—*Jerom*, where he retcheth  
 " the Presbyters Office to the uttermost, of purpose to shew,  
 " that he may do by the Word of God as much as the Bishop,  
 " he excepteth this *One Point* as unlawful for Presbyters by  
 " the Scriptures. *Quid facit Exceptâ Ordinatione, Episcopus,*  
 " *quod Presbyter non facit?*

And whereas 'tis objected, That Imposition of Hands was by the Presbytery, he answereth out of *Chrysoftom*, that by the word *Presbytery* in that place of Scripture must be understood *Bishops*, not Presbyters, because Presbyters in the Apostles time did not impose Hands on a Bishop.

P. 299. "All that we can say for the Power of Bishops above Presbyters out of the Scriptures, is this: "That the Holy Ghost by the mouth of *St. Paul* hath given the Bishop of each Place, Authority to *Ordain* such as be worthy, to *examine* such as be faulty, and *Reprove* and *Discharge* such as be *guilty* either of Unsound Teaching, and Offensive Living. Thus much he saith to *Timothy*, and to *Tite*, and in them to their Successors, and to all other Bishops of Christ's Church for ever.

The Power of Ruling the People is not *solely*, but P. 304. *chiefly* in the Bishop. "My meaning (says he) is soon understood. You establish one *Chief* in your *Presbyteries* by God's Essential and Perpetual Ordinance, to execute that which you decree, whom you call a *President*. "How far I joyn with you, you shall quickly perceive. To *avoid Tumults and Dissentions*, God hath Authorized One in each Place and Church, Able, to have and maintain a *Presbytery*, who with *Pastoral*, and *Fatherly Moderation*, should Guide as well the *Presbyters* that *assist him*, as the *People* that are *Subject to him*, according to the *Laws of God and Man*; the Execution whereof is *Chiefly* committed to his Charge that is the *Leader*, and *Overseer* of the rest: whom we call a *Bishop*. His Power I call a *Moderation*, and not a *Domination*; because the *Wisdom of God* hath likewise allowed and provided *Christian means* as well to *Bridle* him from wrongs, as to *Direct* him in *Doubts*. And whereas the *Nonconformist* tells him, that this is right the Power which they give to their *Presbyteries*; his Answer is, "Did you not put *Lay-Men* instead of *Pastors* to be *Presbyters*, and make them *Controulers*, where they should be but *Advisers*, your *Presbyteries* might have some use in the *Church of God*; tho' far less now than when they first began. And amongst the many uses of *Presbytes*

P. 307. "ries, the Bishop is *Positive*, "That at first, left "the



“ the Bishops *only will* should be the Rule of all things  
 “ in the Church, the *Government* of the Church was so pro-  
 “ portioned that neither the Presbyters should do any thing  
 “ without their Bishop; nor the Bishop dispose Matters of Im-  
 “ portance without his Presbytery.

He distinguisheth between the *Private* use of the Keys in Refusing to give the Lord's Supper unto the Impenitent, and the *Publick use* of the Keys, whereby the obstinate Person is excluded from all Fellowship of the Faithful, as well Sacred as Civil; The first belongs to the Presbyter, the last was by the Church of God allowed always and only to Bishops. So in another place. — “ For P. 320.  
 “ our parts, tho' we take the Power of the Keys to be  
 “ *Common* to all that have Pastoral Charge of Souls, in *their*  
 “ *Degree*, yet to avoid the infinite Showers of Excommu-  
 “ nication, which would overflow all Churches and Pa-  
 “ rishes, and the intolerable Quarrels and Brabbles that  
 “ would ensue, if every Presbyter might Excommunicate  
 “ without the Bishops consent and Licence, we praise the  
 “ Wisdom of God's Church in suffering no Inferiour to  
 “ Excommunicate without the Bishop's consent and Li-  
 “ cence.

Thus far this Learned Bishop, who urgeth the singularity of Succession and Superiority in Ordination, to be the Essential Marks of a Bishop, as he differs from a Presbyter; yet not divesting the Presbyter of all Governing Power in the Church of Christ. His Pleading for a Superiority of Power in the Bishop, carries in it the grant of a lesser degree of the same Power, as belonging to the Presbyter, and the denying Presbyters the Exercise of this Power without the consent of the Bishop, is but by an Ecclesiastical Constitution, such as that which makes the Reconciling Penitents, and Confirmation to be rather Peculiar to the Bishop for the Honour of his Calling, than for any Necessity of God's Word.

Thus I have gone through the Principal Writers about Church Government that were in Queen Elizabeths Reign; namely, *Alley* Bishop of *Exeter*, *Pilkington* Bishop of *Du-*  
*resme*.

*refine*, Jewel Bishop of *Salisbury* and *Whitgift*, Archbishop of *Canterbury*, who held, that according to the Scriptures, there was no Difference between a Presbyter and a Bishop, that in Scripture account their Office and Powers were the same, and that the Apostles did not leave behind them any one kind of Church Government to be observed throughout all the Churches at all times. These were followed by *Dr. Cosins*, *Dr. Low*, and Bishop *Bridges*.

The Learned *Wilket*, in his *Synopsis Papismi*, a Book Published at least three or four times in *Queen Elizabeths* Days, and afterwards by *King James* his Special Command, doth in most things agree with the Bishops, but now mention'd, and being more particular than they, affirming out of *Ferom*, That Confirmation and Ordination were appropriated to the Bishop, rather for the Honour of their Priesthood, and the Peace of the Church, than by necessity of any Law; the same he saith of the Jurisdiction of the Church; adding, That anciently there were no distinct Consecrations of Bishops. The thing wherein he may be supposed to differ from them is, that an Inequality amongst the Presbyters, and the Presidency of some one above the other for Orders sake, he holds to be Apostolical; but herein differs not from the Old Nonconformists.

After these, I have given the Judgments of *Saravia*, Archbishop *Bancroft*, the Judicious *Hooker*, and Bishop *Bilson*; who affirm, the Government of the Church to be Apostolical. Tho' formerly 'twas esteemed dangerous to the Civil Government to hold, that Church Government must now be the same 'twas in the Apostles days; yet it's look'd on by these, as what ought to be. The Government of the Church with them is a Divine and Apostolical Institution, but not Unalterable. *Bilson*, I con-

*Defence of his Ser-*  
*mon*, p. 26.

fess, says, it is *Perpetual*, and yet Bishop  
\* *Downname*, who most willingly and gladly professeth to consent in Judgment with  
P. 2. Him, doth solemnly Declare in these words, "That  
" although

“ although he holds the Calling of Bishops in respect of  
 “ their first Institution, to be an *Apostolical*, and so a Di-  
 “ vine Ordinance, yet that he doth not maintain it to  
 “ be *Divini Juris*, as intending thereby, that it is *Gene-  
 “ rally, Perpetually, and Immutably* necessary, as though  
 “ there could not be a True Church without it. And  
 within a few Pages after this, He declares his Opinion  
 to be the same with King James’s; who doth say, That  
 it is granted to every Christian King, Prince, and Com-  
 monwealth to prescribe to their Subjects, that **Outward Form**  
 of Ecclesiastical Regiment, which may seem best to agree with  
 the Form of their Civill Government; but so as they swerve  
 not at all from the Grounds of Faith, and True Religion.  
 This, saith *Downname*, maketh not against the Govern-  
 ment of Bishops, as I maintain it.—Tho’ I hold the  
 Government-*Episcopal* to be of *Apostolical* and *Divine*  
 Institution; yet not as *Generally, Perpetually* and *Immuta-  
 bly* necessary: He doth not hold it necessary in all Plac-  
 es, nor in all Ages, but to be changeable by Man;  
 and if herein He and *Bilson* accord, the *Perpetuity Bilson*  
 is for, will admit of a Change.

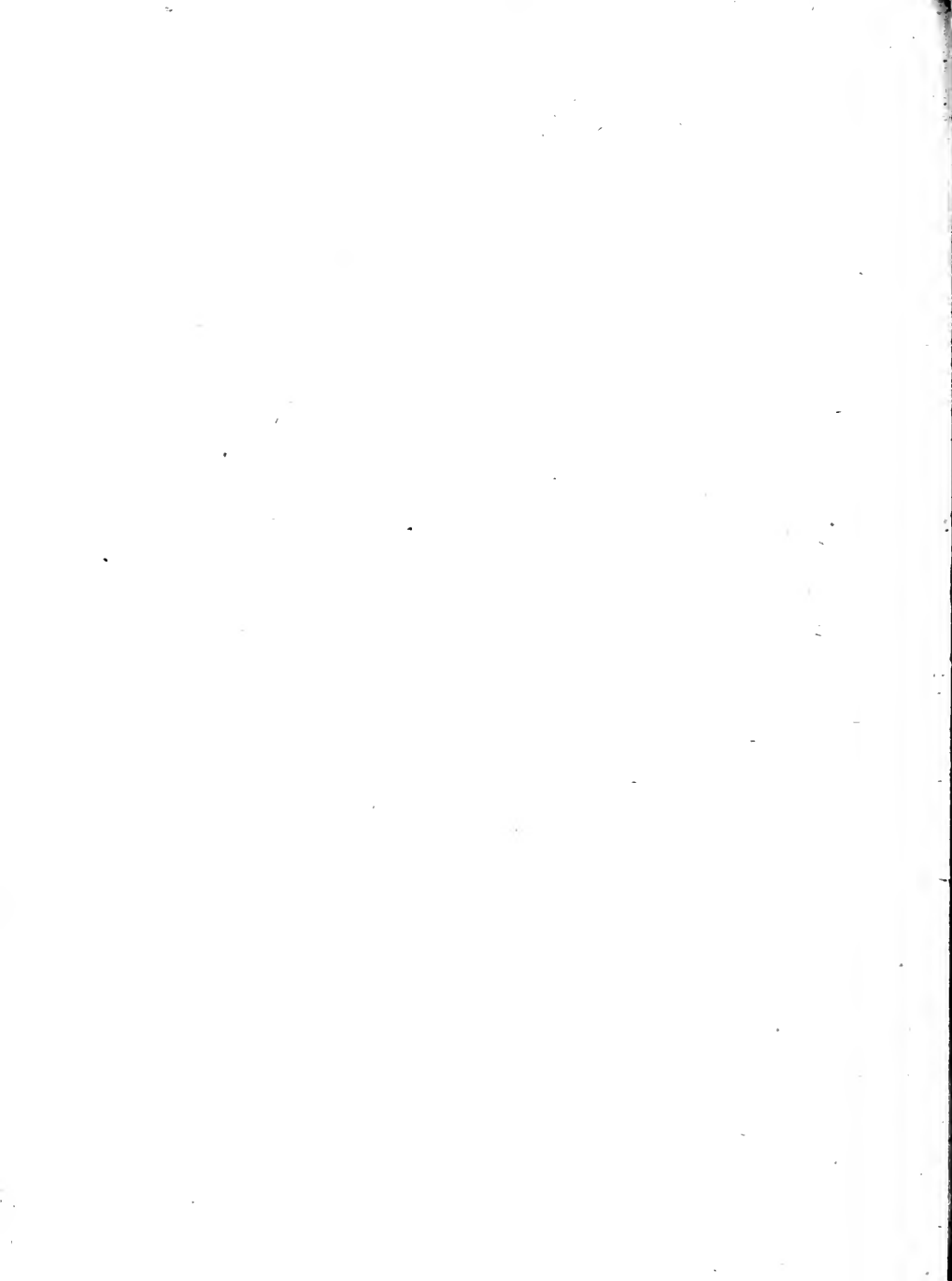
But whether *Downname* gives us *Bilson’s* Notion, when  
 he states his own, I will not contend, nor is it need-  
 ful I should; It’s enough to my purpose, that the differ-  
 ence he placeth between a Bishop and Presbyter is on-  
 ly in *Degree*, that *Confirmation*, and *Excommunication* be-  
 long unto Presbyters; and that *Bilson’s* Bishop differs more  
 from the Bishops by Law Established than from the Non-  
 conformist Parish Presbyters.

*Bancroft* professes to agree with *Robinson*, *Feynolds*, and  
*Fulk*, who differed not from the Old Nonconformists, and  
*Hooker* never thought the Government of the Church to  
 be in all Places and Ages necessarily the same; nor did  
 he look on Bishops to be of a Different Order from Pres-  
 byters, but to be of the same Order, differing only in  
*Degree*, the Bishop having only a Chetty of Power in the  
 Church,

Church, nor did any Great Men. of the Church of *England*, in Queen *Elizabeths* time, null the Ministry or Church State of the Reformed either in *Scotland* or beyond the Seas; They held their Churches to be true Churches, and their Government to be such as agreed with the General Rules of God's Word, and tho' some esteemed the Ordination only by Presbyters to be defective, yet did not judge it to be Invalid, but admitted those who had their Ordination only from Presbyters abroad, to Ecclesiastical Promotions, on no other terms than their Subscribing the Articles of Religion, which concern the Faith, and Doctrines of the Sacraments only.

These Sentiments, which our first Reformers entertain'd about Episcopacy are such, as would (if the Government of the Church be at this time Fram'd accordingly) contribute much to the Peace of the Church, and Healing our Divisions; and seeing they are most admirably copied out unto us in the Learned Archbishop *Usher's Reduction of Episcopacy*, I will with some Notes present it to the Reader's more Deliberate Consideration.





## C H A P. VI.

*Archbishop Uther's Reduction of Episcopacy with some Notes on it.*

" *The Reduction of Episcopacy unto the Form of Synodical Government received in the Ancient Church; proposed in the year 1641. as an Expedient for the prevention of those Troubles, which afterwards did arise about the matter of Church-Government.*

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*" Episcopal and Presbyterial Government Conjoyned.*

" **B**Y Order of the Church of England all Presbyters are charged to administer the Doctrine and Sacraments, and the Discipline of Christ, as the Lord hath commanded, and as this Realm hath received the same; And that they might the better understand what the Lord had commanded therein, the Exhortation to St. Paul, to the Elders of the Church of Ephesus is appointed to be read unto them at the time of their Ordination; Take heed unto your selves and to all the Flock among whom the Holy Ghost hath made you Overseers to Rule the Congregation of God, which he hath purchased with his Blood.

*The Book of Ordination.*

*Ibid. ex Art. 20. 27, 28.*

*Ποιμαίνων το taken in Mat. 2. 6. Revel. 12. 5. & 19. 15.*

## Notes.

Thus it was in the *Old Book of Ordering Priests and Deacons*; but on the Restoration of Charles II. there were such Alterations made in the Books of Common Prayer and Ordering Bishops, Priests and Deacons, as do plainly shew, that tho' heretofore the Presbyters had Power to Rule, yet now they have none.

In the *Act of Uniformity*, 14 *Car.* 2. it is Declared, “ That the King’s Majesty (according to his Declaration of 25. *October*, 1660.) granted his Commission under the Great Seal of *England*, to several Bishops, and other Divines, to Review the Book of Common Prayer, and to prepare such *Alterations*, and *Additions*, as they thought fit to offer : And afterwards the Convocations of both the Provinces of *Canterbury* and *York*, being by his Majesty called and Assembled, (and now sitting) his Majesty hath been pleased to Authorize and require the Presidents of the said Convocations, and other the Bishops, and Clergy of the same, to Review the said Book of Common Prayer, and the Book of the Form and Manner of the making and Consecrating of Bishops, Priests and Deacons ; And that after mature Consideration, they should make such *Additions*, and *Alterations* in the said Books respectively, as to them should seem meet and convenient ; And should Exhibit, and Present the same to his Majesty in Writing, for his further Allowance, or Confirmation ; since which time, upon full and mature Deliberation, they, the said Presidents, Bishops, and Clergy of both Provinces, have accordingly Reviewed the said Books, and have made some *Alterations*, which they think fit to be inserted to the same, and have Exhibited and Presented the same unto his Majesty in Writing. All which his Majesty having duly considered, hath fully Approved and Allowed the same, and recommended to this present Parliament.

The Books thus *altered*, were by this Parliament confirm’d and established, and the *Alterations* such as make the Office of the Presbyter quite another thing than it was before ; for tho’ in the old Book of Ordering Bishops, Priests and Deacons, the Reading unto the Presbyters at the time of their Ordination, *Acts* 20. 27, 28. did put it out of Doubt, that the Presbyters were vested with the Pastoral Office, having Power given ’em to *Rule* the Church ; In the *new Book* this Exhortation is removed from the Presbyters Ordination unto the Consecration of Bishops, thereby manifestly Evincing the *Pastoral Power* to be taken from the Presbyter, and seated with the Bishop only, and accordingly the name [*Pastor*] which was in the old



old Book given unto the Presbyter, is in the new omitted, and in several places the word [*Curate, or Priest*] substituted in its stead; and whereas, in the old Book, the Presbyter was admitted [to the *Ministry of Priesthood*] in the new it's to the [*Order*] and Ministry of Priesthood, thereby making Priesthood an Order distinct from those of *Deaconship* and *Episcopacy*. In the Consecrating of Bishops in the *Collect*, to shew what they mean by Bishop more than formerly, it's added by way of Explication to all *Bishops* [*the Pastors of thy Church*] and in the Prayer for the Bishop [*Almighty God, &c.*] in the old Book 'twas, *Replenish him so with thy Truth— that He may faithfully serve thee in this Office to the Edifying of thy Church*; in the new it is [*to the well Governing thy Church.*] And when the Archbishop and other Bishops present, do lay their Hands on the Elected, and according to the old Book, were to say, [*Receive the Holy Ghost, &c.*] in the new it's added [*for the Office and Work of a Bishop Now committed unto thee by the Imposition of our Hands in the Name of the Father, &c.*]

Thus the Alterations by Law established do clearly shew, that both the *Name* and *Office* of a *Pastor* is taken from the Presbyter, and transferr'd over to the Diocesan, who alone hath the Power of Ordering Priests and Deacons, and of Governing or Ruling the Church; whence it follows, that as there is but *One Pastor in a Diocese*, there is but one Church; That all Parish-Assemblies are but parts or parcels of this One single Church, under the Conduct and Government only of the Diocesan Bishop, their only Pastor; That all Ordinations by Presbyters are of no greater Validity than those by Deacons or Lay-men; and therefore altho' Ordination is no more to be repeated than Baptism, yet those who have had their Ordination only by Presbyters, must be Ordained again, or not admitted unto any Benefice, nor allowed the Exercise of the Priestly Office, nor be esteemed *Lawful Priests*; so that as there is a vast Difference between Queen *Elizabeth's* Bishops and *Charles the Second's*, so between Queen *Elizabeth's* Law, and King *Charles's*. “ *Q. Elizabeth's* Act runs thus, *That every Person under the Degree of a Bishop, which doth or shall pretend to be a Priest or Minister of God's Holy Word and Sacraments, by reason of any other Form of Institution, Consecra-*

tion, or Ordering, than the Form now used in the Reign of our most Gracious Sovereign Lady—shall—declare his Assent, and subscribe to all the Articles of Religion, which only concern the Profession of the true Christian Faith, and the Doctrine of the Sacraments, comprised in a Book Entituled, Articles, &c. [viz. 39 Articles]—upon pain, that every such Person which shall not subscribe, shall be (*ipso facto*) deprived, and all his Ecclesiastical Promotions shall be void, as if he had been naturally dead.

King Charles his Law is thus, “ That no Parson, who now is Incumbent, and in the Possession of any Parsonage or Benefice, and who is not in Holy Orders by Episcopal Ordination, or shall not be before the said Feast-day of St. Bartholomew, Ordained Priest or Deacon, shall have, hold, or enjoy any Parsonage with Cure—but shall be utterly disabled, and *ipso facto* deprived of the same, and all his Ecclesiastical Promotions shall be void, as if he had been naturally dead.

Touching Persons ordained by any other Form than the Episcopal, a Subscription to the Articles was sufficient by 13 Eliz. c. 12. to Qualifie them for Spiritual Promotion, and Whittingham's, whose Ordination was only by Presbyters abroad, was esteemed good, and he enjoyed his Benefice to the day of his death, as *Traverse*, in his *Supplication* to the Council, affirms: but tho' the Articles be subscribed unto by one having only an Ordination by Presbyters, he must be ordained by the Bishop, or not admitted to any Ecclesiastical Promotion; or if admitted, he is *ipso facto* deprived; and whoever consults the Book of *Ordering Presbyters*, will find that the whole of it plainly declares, that the former Ordination of the Person thus re-ordained, was invalid and null, and that till now he was never of the Presbyters Office; for the Ordination of one never before ordained, and the Ordination of him who was formerly ordain'd by Presbyters, is the same.

Whether I am right in these my Sentiments, I appeal to the Right Reverend and Reverend Bishops and others of the Dignified Clergy, who, with the greatest importunity; are desired to declare their Judgments in this Matter.

To know what the Government of the Church of England is, that is by Archbishops, Bishops; and what is the Office of a Presbyter,

*Presbyter*, what that of a *Bishop*, is a matter of extraordinary importance.

If it be the same it was in *Edward* the Sixth and *Queen Elizabeth's* days, which is the same with what the Learned *Archbishop Usher* was for, the greatest Bone of Contention between the *Cons* and *Noncons* will be removed farther. Every *Parish-Presbyter* will be granted to be a *Pastor*, vested with a Right to Rule the Church, (from whence, saith the Learned *Archbishop*, the name of *Rector* also was given unto him at first) and to administer the Discipline of *Christ*, as well as to dispense the Doctrine and Sacraments, and the difference between the *Bishop* and the *Presbyter* to be only in Degree, and not in Order, as this Learned *Primate* ever held, as he saith in an Answer to an abusive Report, that went abroad of him: "I have ever declared my Opinion to be (saith he) That *Episcopus & Presbyter gradu tantum differunt, non Ordine*, and consequently that in places where *Bishops* cannot be had, the Ordination by *Presbyters* standeth valid; and *Dr. Bernard* in his *Animadversions* on the *Archbishop's* Opinion, asserts, That in this Judgment he was not singular; *Dr. Davenant*, that Pious and Learned *Bishop of Salisbury*, consents with him in it, produceth the Principal of the *Determinat. 2. Schoolmen, Gulielmus Parisiensis, Gerson, Durand, &c. Episcopatus non est Ordo præcisè distinctus à Sacerdotio simplici, &c. non est alia potestas Ordinis in Episcopis quàm Presbyteris, sed inest modo perfectiori.* And declares it to be the general Opinion of *Schoolmen, &c.* And whereas the *Primate* saith, That in Cases of *Necessity*, where *Bishops* cannot be had, the Ordination by *Presbyters* standeth valid: *Bishop Davenant* concurs with him also, and produceth the Opinion of *Richardus Armathanus* (one of this *Primate's* Predecessors, and one of the most Learned men in his time) to be accordingly. To which divers others might be added, as in special *Dr. Field* sometimes *Dean of Gloucester*, in his Learned Book of the Church, where this Judgment of the *Primate*, and the Concurrence of *Bishop Davenant's*, is largely confirmed. But that Book Entituled, *The Defence of the Ordination of the Ministers of the Reformed Churches*

*Determinat. 2.*  
42.

*Lib. 3. c. 39. &*  
*lib. 5. c. 27.*

ches

“ *ches beyond the Seas*, maintained by Mr. *Archdeacon Mason*  
 “ against the *Romanists* (who wrote also a Defence of Episco-  
 “ pacy, and of the Ministry of the Church of *England*) is suf-  
 “ ficiently known, and I have been assur’d it was not only the  
 “ Judgment of *Bishop Overal*, but that he had a *Principal hand*  
 “ in it. He produceth many Testimonies, the *Master of the*  
 “ *Sentences*, and most of the Schoolmen, *Bonaventure, Thomas*  
 “ *Aquinas, Durand, Dominicus Soto, Richardus Armachanus, To-*  
 “ *status, Alphonfus à Castro, Gerson, Canisius* to have affirmed  
 “ the same; and at last quotes *Medina*, a *Principal Bishop* of  
 “ the Council of *Trent*, who affirm’d, That *Jerom, Am-*  
 “ *brose, Augustine, Sedulius, Primasius, Chrysofome, Theodoret,*  
 “ *Theophylact* were of the same Judgment also. In a word, if  
 “ the *Ordination* of Presbyters in such places where Bishops  
 “ cannot be had, were not *valid*, the late Bishops of *Scotland*  
 “ had a hard Task to maintain themselves to be *Bishops*, who  
 “ were not *Priests*, for their *Ordination* was no other.

What Dr. *Bernard* mentions about the Archbishop’s dislike  
 of the late Prerbyterians here in *England*, is not so much against  
 their Exercising the Power, as the *Manner* of their Exercise,  
 they did not add to the Imposition of Hands [*Receive the Holy*  
*Ghost, &c.*] nor so much as these words [*Be thou a faithful*  
*Dispenser of the Word of God and of his Holy Sacraments, &c.*]  
 Moreover in the Close to the Reduction the *Primate* and Dr.  
*Holdsworth* aver, That the *Suffragans*, mentioned in the second  
 Proposition, may lawfully use the Power both of Jurisdiction  
 and Ordination according to the Word of God and the Pra-  
 ctice of the Ancient Church, who yet are but the *Chorepiscopi*,  
 of no other Order than the Presbyters, as hereafter I shall  
 prove. A Declaring therefore thus much, namely, That the  
 Presbyter is of the same Order, vested with the Power both  
 of Order and Jurisdiction, and an entrusting them with the  
 Exercise thereof, as in the second Proposition, will contri-  
 bute very much towards a well Established *Comprehension*; And  
 in Requital it’s not to be doubted, but the *Latitudinarian Non-*  
*conformist*, of which there are a great number in this Kingdom,  
 will readily yield to the *Presidency* of one Presbyter, for the  
 sake of Union, to be over them, and close with what the Arch-  
 bishop further adds.

Archbishop.

“ Of the many *Elders*, who in common *Ruled* the Church of  
 “ *Ephesus*, there was one *President*, whom our Saviour in his  
 “ *Epistle* to this Church, in a peculiar manner  
 “ *stileth the Angel of the Church of Ephesus*: and Revel. 1.  
 “ *Ignatius* in another *Epistle* written about  
 “ twelve years after unto the same Church, calleth the *Bishop*  
 “ thereof. Betwixt the Bishop and the *Presbytery* of that  
 “ Church, what an Harmonious Consent there was in the Or-  
 “ dering of the Church-Government, the same *Ignatius* doth  
 “ fully declare, by the *Presbytery*, which *St. Paul*,  
 “ understanding the *Community of the rest of the* 1 Tim. 4. 14.  
 “ *Presbyters* or *Elders*, who then had a hand,  
 “ not only in the Delivery of the Doctrine and Sacraments,  
 “ but also in the Administration of the *Discipline* of Christ:  
 “ for further proof of which, we have that known Testimony  
 “ of *Tertullian* in his general Apology  
 “ for Christians. In the Church are used  
 “ *Exhortations, Chastisements, and Divine*  
 “ *Censure*; for Judgment is given with  
 “ great advice, as amongst those, who are  
 “ certain they are in the sight of God, and  
 “ it is the chiefest foreshewing of the Judg-  
 “ ment which is to come, if any man have  
 “ so offended, that he be banished from  
 “ the Communion of Prayer, and of the  
 “ Assembly, and of all Holy Fellowship.  
 “ The *Presidents* that bear Rule therein,  
 “ are certain approved *Elders*, who have  
 “ obtained this Honour, not by Reward,  
 “ but by good Report, who were no other  
 “ (as he himself intimates elsewhere)  
 “ but those from whose hands they used  
 “ to receive the Sacrament of the *Eu-*  
 “ *charist*.

“ For with the Bishop, who was the  
 “ Chief President (and therefore stiled  
 “ by the same *Tertullian* in another  
 “ place \* *Summus Sacerdos* for distin-

Ibidem etiam Exhortationes, Castigationes, & censura Divina; nam & judicatur magno cum pondere, ut apud certos de Dei conspectu, summumq; futuri Judicii præjudicium est, si quis ita deliquerit, ut à Communicatione Orationis, & Conventus & omnis sancti Commercii relegatur: præfident probati quiq; Seniores, honorem istum non pretio, sed Testimonio adepti. *Tertul. Apolog.* c. 39.

Nec de aliorum manibus quàm Præsidentium sumimus. *Id. de Corona Militis, c. 3.*

\* Dandi quidem Baptistini habet us Summus Sacerdos, qui est Episcopus

pus, dehinc Presbyteri & Diaconi. *Id. de Baptif. c. 17.*

“ *Ation*

“ tion sake) the rest of the Dispensers of the Word and Sa-  
 “ craments joyned in the *Common Government* of the Church;  
 “ and therefore, where in Matters of Ecclesiastical Judicature,

Omni actu ad me per-  
 lato placuit contrahi Pres-  
 byterium. *Cornel. apud Cypr.*  
*Epist. 46.*

Florentissimo illic clero  
 tecum præfidenti. *Cypr. E-*  
*pist. 55. ad Cornel.*

Ut Episcopus nullius cau-  
 sam audiat absq; præsen-  
 tia Clericorum suorum, alioquin irrita erit sententia Episcopi, nisi Clericorum præsentia confirmetur. *Concil. Carthage. IV. cap. 23.*

\* Except. Egberti, c. 43.

|| 15. q. 7. c. nullus.

“ *Cornelius* Bishop of Rome used the re-  
 “ ceived Form of *gathering together the*  
 “ *Presbytery*; of what persons that did  
 “ consist, *Cyprian* sufficiently declareth,  
 “ when he wisheth them to read his  
 “ Letters to the *flourishing Clergie*, which  
 “ there did *Preside* or Rule with him. The  
 “ presence of the *Clergie* being thought  
 “ to be so requisite in matters of *Epis-*  
 “ *copal Audience*, that in the fourth  
 “ Council of *Carthage*, it was conclu-  
 “ ded, That the Bishop might hear no  
 “ mans cause without the Presence of the  
 “ Clergie, and that otherwise the Bishop’s  
 “ Sentence should be void, unless it were  
 “ confirm’d by the Presence of the Clergie;  
 “ which we find also to be inserted in-  
 “ to the Canons of \* *Egbert*, who was  
 “ Archbishop of *York* in the *Saxon* times,  
 “ and afterwards in the Body of the  
 “ *Canon Law* it self.

“ True it is, that in our Church this kind of *Presbyterial*  
 “ *Government* hath been long disused, yet seeing it still pro-  
 “ fesseth, that every *Pastor* hath a Right to *Rule* the Church  
 “ (from whence the name of *Rektor* also was given at first unto  
 “ him) and to *Administer* the *Discipline of Christ*, as well as to  
 “ *Dispense* the *Doctrine* and *Sacraments*, and the *Restraint* of  
 “ the Exercise of that Right, proceedeth only from the Cu-  
 “ stom now received in this Realm, no man can doubt, but by  
 “ another Law of the Land, this hindrance may be well re-  
 “ moved; And this *Ancient* Form of Government by the uni-  
 “ ted Suffrages of the Clergy, might be reviv’d again; and  
 “ with what little shew of *Alteration*, the *Synodical Conventi-*  
 “ ons of the Pastors of every Parish might be accorded with  
 “ the Presidency of the Bishops of each Diocess and Province;  
 “ the

“ the indifferent Reader may quickly perceive by the perusal of  
 “ the ensuing Propositions.

## I.

“ In every Parish the *Rector*, or incumbent *Pastor*, together  
 “ with the Church-Wardens and Sides-men, may every Week  
 “ take notice of such as live scandalously in that Congrega-  
 “ tion, who are to receive such several Admonitions and Re-  
 “ proofs as the Quality of their Offence shall deserve: And if  
 “ by this means they cannot be reclaimed, they may be pre-  
 “ sented to the next *monthly Synod*, and in the mean time de-  
 “ barr'd by the *Pastor* from Access unto the Lord's Ta-  
 “ ble.

## Notes.

The Name *Rector*, which signifieth a Governour or Ruler, was anciently given in common to Prelates, Bishops, Abbots, and Parish-Presbyters, but chiefly to the Parish-Priest or Parson that had Cure of Souls, as *D U*

*FRESNE* observes out of the Lombardian Laws, and *Charles the Great's* Capitulars, and the *Almaine* Charter.

*lib. 3. tit. 75. &c.* Maxime Rector Ecclesiæ qui ut in Charta *Alaman.* 43. apud *Goldastum.* *D U* Rector.

*Lindwood* also in his *Provincial Constitution*, declares the same; and \* *Cowell* affirms, That in our *Common Law*, Rector *Ecclesiæ Parochialis*, is he that hath the Charge or Cure of a Parish-Church; *qui tantum Jus in Ecclesia Parochiali habet, quantum Prælatus in Ecclesiâ Collegiatâ*, That a Parson and Rector were anciently the same: So † *Bracton*, *Sciendum quod Rectoribus Ecclesiarum Parochialium competit Assisa, qui institui sunt per Episcopos & Ordinarios, ut Personæ.* *Lindwood* holds the same: For, as he avers, That in *aliquibus locis*

Restores Ecclesiarum Prælati, Episcopi, Abbates Parochiarum Presbyteri in lege *Longob. l. 3. tit. 1. Sect. 42. tit. 10. Sect. 4.* In Capitularibus *Carol. M.* vulgo Curio, seu Curitus, *FRESNE* *Glos. in verb.*

Communiter loquendo [per ipsorum Rectorum] intelligas de Rectoribus Ecclesiarum Parochialium. Potest etiam intelligi de omni Prælato Ecclesiæ. *Lindw. de Consu. c. nullus ver. nullus Rector, & ver. Ipsorum Rectorum.*

\* Vid. *Cowell's Interpreter*, in *Verb. Rector.*

† *Lib. 4. Tract. 5. ca. pri.*

De Præsump. c. ne Leprosæ, Sect. quod si. ver. Personatus,

*Rectores Ecclesiarum vocantur Personæ*, so he is as express, that *hæc dictio Personæ, est vulgare Anglicorum, & ponitur pro Rectore.* *Wats* in his *Glossary*, observing the Word *Personatus* in *Otho's Constitutions*, delivered by *Matthew Paris* in *Henry the Third's* days, and in *Pope Innocent's* Letter to the *Abbot of St. Albans*, assures us, that it signifies a *Rectory*, and the *Persona*, or *Parson*, is the *Rector*. *John de Athon* in his *Commentary* on *Otho's Constitutions* on the Word *Personæ*, saith, (i.e.) *Rectores; loquitur enim secundum vulgare Anglicorum.*

In quibus locis omnibus accipitur pro *Relatoria*, quam a *Personage* vocamus.

De *Congreg. Personarum* & *Cleric.* Quod in quodam ver. *Persona*.

It is also clear from *Lindwood*; that *Vicars Perpetual* were anciently acknowledged to be *Rectors* or *Governours* of the *Parish Church*; and therefore on the *Constitution* of *Simon Langham*, where it's Ordain'd, That *Nullus*

*Nullus Rector*, supple vel *Vicarius*, ubi est *Perpetuus* *De Consuet.* *Nullus Rector*, ver. *Nullus Rector*;

Creo respectu *Rectorum* *Vicarium* dici *Intitulatum*, respectu vero *aliorum* nominare debet *Rectorem.* *Consuet. Otho. de Instit. Vicarior. verb. ad Vicar.*

*Rector* presume to sell those *Tithes* of his *Church* not yet received; before the *Annunciation* of the *Blessed Mary*, it must be understood also of *Vicars Perpetual*: And *John de Athon* is very large in discussing, and positive in determining it: For, saith he, out of *Innocent's Extrav.* though if you consider a *Vicar Perpetual*, with respect to his *Rector*, whose *Vicar* he is, he is not called a *Rector*; yet if compared with others, he is a *Rector*.

It's then very plain, That anciently every *Parson* and *Vicar Perpetual*, were called *Rectors* or *Governours*; and why? but because they were vested with a *Right* to *Govern* their *Churches*, notwithstanding which, it cannot now be inferr'd, that those who still bear the Name of *Rector*, are *Governours* of the *Church*; For the ancient *Constitution* of the *Church* is not only altered, whereby *Parish Presbyters*, *Parsons*, *Rectors* and *Vicars Perpetual*, have lost all their ancient *Power* of *Ruling*; but by reason of *Impropriations*, mere *Laicks*, ever since the *Statute* of *Dissolution*, that took away *Appropriations* from



from the Church, have been *Parsons* and *Rectors*, but not Rulers of the Church.

Sir *Henry Spelman* very Learnedly doth prove, *Of Tithes, c. 29.* That after the Appropriations, the Parsonage still continues Spiritual, as well in the Eye of the Common Law, as of the Canon Law: for if it became Temporal by Appropriation, then were it within the Statute of *Mortmaine*, and forfeited by that Act; and as it continues *Spiritual*, it must be made to a Spiritual Person, and not Temporal, Spiritual Things and Spiritual Men being Co-Relatives, that cannot in Reason be divorced. However, we see that, *de facto*, Lay-men are possess'd of these Spiritual Impropriations, and thereby are become the Parsons and Rectors; and the Ecclesiastical Incumbent, who hath the Cure of Souls, is his Vicar, who, although according to the Ancient Dialect, might be called *Rector*, when compared with others, yet not with respect to the Lay-man, the Parson or Rector of the Parish: He that hath the Parsonage or Rectory, is the Parson or Rector; and that is the Lay-Impropriator.

Besides, according to what hath been offer'd in the first *Note*, it's plain, that now no Governing Power is left with the Parish-Presbyter; He is not only denied the Exercise of such a Power, but divested of the Power it self; and if any of 'em have the Name of *Rector* left 'em, it's *vox & praterea nihil*.

If in this I am mistaken, the Fathers of the Church are humbly desired to tell the World so; but whether I am mistaken or no, the restoring the Parish-Presbyters to the ancient Power of Rectors, and the Exercise of it, will be a great step towards the healing our Breaches, especially if what the ancient *Chorepiscopi*, whom I must again mention, who were but Presbyters, enjoyed, may be allowed them: Of whom, more in my *Notes* under the next Proposition.

## II.

“Whereas by a Statute in the Six and Twentieth Year of King *Henry* the Eighth (revived in the First Year of Queen *Elizabeth*), *Suffragans* are appointed to *Ch. 14.* be erected in Twenty Six several places of this Kingdom, the Number of them might very well be conformed unto the Number of the several *Rural Deanries*, into

“ which every Diocess is sub-divided; which being done, the  
 “ *Suffragan* supplying the place of those who in the ancient  
 “ Church were called *Chorepiscopi*, might every Month assemble  
 “ a Synod of all the *Rectors*, or incumbent *Pastors* within the  
 “ Precinct, and according to the *major part* of their Voices,  
 “ conclude all Matters that shall be brought into Debate before  
 “ them.

*Notes.*

The *Suffragans* appointed to be erected in the Twenty Sixth Year of *Henry* the Eighth, were to be consecrated by the Archbishop, and Two other Bishops, or *Suffragans*, and by them admitted to the Episcopal Dignity; but yet were not to use, have, or execute any Jurisdiction or Episcopal Power or Authority within their said Sees, nor within any Diocess or place of this Realm, or elsewhere within the King's Dominions, but only such Jurisdiction, Power and Authority as shall be *Licensed* and *Limited* to them, to take, do, and execute by a Commission from the Bishop of the See in which he is a *Suffragan*; nor were they to use any Jurisdiction, Ordinary, or Episcopal Power otherwise, nor longer time than *limited* by such Commission.

These were the *Suffragans* appointed to be erected by *Henry* the Eighth, who though consecrated and Ordained to the Episcopal Dignity, yet must exercise no other Episcopal Power than was delegated to 'em by the Diocesan's Commission, which was a very precarious and uncertain thing. This Learned Archbishop doth therefore move, that instead of this sort of *Suffragan*, we might have men to supply the place of the ancient *Chorepiscopi*, who were not at first under such Limitations, tho without Episcopal Consecrations, they were vested with the Powers and Authorities of *City Bishops*; and that they might be conform'd to the Number of *Rural Deanries*. A motion, which if clos'd with by the Church of *England*, would, no doubt, touching this part of the Controversie about the Government of the Church, heal the Division; and the *Church* in her Condescension herein, would conform unto an ancient Practice of the Church, recogniz'd by all to be common, at least in the *Third Century*: For though Bishop *Parker* will not admit them to have been in the Church till the *Fourth Century*, because no mention  
 of

of 'em in any Record before the Council of *Ancyra* sat, which (notwithstanding what *Angelocrator* avers, who would have it be after the Council of *Nice*, because *Vitalis*, Bishop of *Antioch*, the first named amongst the Bishops that sat in it, was not made a Bishop before the Year 331.) it's generally held to be in the Year 314. And it's not ealie to imagine, that these *Chorepiscopi* could in so short a time spring out of Nothing, and arrive to that height they were at *An. 314*, or as others 308. Besides, there were several *Chorepiscopi* in the Council of *Nice*, that was but Ten or Twelve Years after this; and *Rabanus Maurus* Seven or Eight Hundred Years ago produced an Apostolical Argument to prove, that they were as ancient as City Bishops: "For (says he) in the Book which *Damasus* the first wrote on the desire of *Hierome* the Presbyter, it's affirm'd, " That *Linus* and *Cletus*, by the Commandment of *St. Peter*, " Ordained Presbyters, who yet succeeded him not in the Apostolical Chair, *Clemens* being by the Order of this blessed " Apostle, made his Successor: And (saith *Maurus*) from " hence it is, that the *Chorepiscopi*, as I suppose, had their " Rise, and have ever since continued in the Catholick Church, " who being Ordained by their own Bishops, by their Commandment did Ordain Presbyters, Deacons, and other Inferior Degrees, and discharge all the other Offices belonging to " Priesthood. So far *Rabanus*.

They were but *Presbyters*, and yet did Ordain and Exercise Episcopal Jurisdiction.

That they did at first exercise *Episcopal Jurisdiction* in the Countrey, is clear from the 13th Canon of the Council of *Ancyra*, which according to *Zonaras* and *Balsamanis* is thus:

Χωρεπισκόπος μὴ ἐξέιναι πρεσβυτέρους ἢ διακόνους χειροτονεῖν, ἀλλὰ μὲν πρεσβυτέροις χεῖρς τῶ ἐπιεραπλῶναι καὶ τῶ ὀπισκοπικῶν χαμμάτων, ἐν ἐτέροις παροχίαι. Exactly translated by *Gentianus Hervetus*, *Chorepiscopus non licere Presbyteros, vel Diaconos Ordinare, sed neq; Orbis Presbyteros, nisi cum literis ab Episcopo permissum fuerit, in aliena Parochia*. This, as Bishop *Parker* confesseth, is the most correct Copy; That it shall not be lawfull for Countrey Bishops to Ordain Presbyters or Deacons, nor yet for City Presbyters, without the permission of their Bishop. Only he omits this material Expression [in another Parish or Diocess]; which Words do greatly

confound the Learned Archbishop of *Paris*, *De Marca*, who will therefore have the Greek Copy corrected: *What is the meaning of these words*, (saith he) ἐν ἐτέρα παροικία, *in aliena paroikia?* as if it had been lawful for the *Chorepiscopi* to Ordain Presbyters in their own Precincts, without the leave of the *City-Bishop*. He will therefore have it, ἐν ἐξῆς παροικία, *in unaquaque*

*Paroikia*, which agrees not only with the Translation of *Dionysius Exiguus*, but with an ancient Copy in the Library at *Oxford*, as *Thorndike* of the *Right of the Church*, reports, who can make no

Sense of *De Marca's* Emendation: "For," says he, can the "Reading of the last words, καὶ χαρισμάτων ἐν ἐξῆς παροικία, "seem probable to Reasonable Persons? What Consequence "of Sense is there in saying, unless License be granted in every "Parish? Which is plain, when it is said, That the *City-Presbyters* do nothing in the Parish, that is in the Countrey "or Diocess, without Authority by the Bishop's Letters. So far *Thorndike*, who is for the blotting ἐν ἐτέρα out of *Zonara's* and *Balsamen's* Copy, and ἐν ἐξῆς out of the Copy at *Oxford*, and who agrees with *De Marca*, in adding μηδὲν παροικίῳ to the Canon, and prefers *Isidore Mercator's* Translation before the Original Greek, and have it thus, *Vicariis Episcoporum, quos, Græci Chorepiscopus vocant, non licere Presbyteros vel Diaconos Ordinare, sed nec Presbyteris Civitatis, sine Episcopi Præcepto, amplius aliquid Imperare, vel sine Autoritate Literarum ejus in unaquaque parochiis aliquid agere*: Whereby, contrary to all Rule, by Addition, Mutilation, &c. they impose a Sense directly contradicting the express Words of the Canon; which is done in so gross a manner, that *Thorndike* himself was compell'd to acknowledge, *That for his part he doth not believe that we have the true Reading of this Canon in any Copy that he hath heard of or seen.*

*Right of the Church,*  
pag. 141, 142.

But why is *Thorndike*, who is followed by *Dr. Hammond* and *Bishop Parker*, all differing from *Queen Elizabeth's* Old Episcopal Divines, so concern'd to oppose the Universally Receiv'd

receiv'd Copies of *Zonaras* and *Balsamon*, but because, do they what they can, it may be easily inferr'd, that before the Council of *Ancyra*, the *Chorepiscopi* did ordain Presbyters, &c. that afterwards they might do it in their own Parishes without leave; in other Parishes with leave; or at least in their own Parishes with leave. Thus much is the Import of *Zonaras's*, *Balsamon's*, and the *Oxford* Copies, one of which must be receiv'd, notwithstanding any thing hitherto oppos'd unto 'em. The whole that *Thorndike* hath laid in against us, narrowly look'd into, comes to nothing.

The Reasons why our Copy is to be suspected, saith he, are these:

1. " In an *Arabick* Paraphrase now extant in the *Oxford* Library, there is nothing to be found of that Clause, Ἄλλα μὴ μὴδὲ ἑπισβυτέρως πόλεως.

2. " *Isidore Mercator's* Translation, which seems to be that which was anciently received in the *Spanish* Churches, before *Dionysius Exiguus*, wherewith that Copy agreed which *Herveus* translated, as also *Fulgentius* his *Breviate*, which *Pope Adrian* the first followed, hath only this, *Vicarius Episcoporum, quos Græci Chorepiscopus vocant, &c. ut supra.*

3. " Can the Reading of the last words, ἢ ἡραμμάτων ἐν ἐκκλησιαστικῇ, seem probable, &c. *ut supra.*

4. " Seeing this is that which is afterwards provided for, by the Council of *Laodicea*, Cap. LVI. in the same Subject, it seems very probable, that this should be the provision which the Council of *Ancyra* intended, as all *Ignatius* his *Epistles*, and other *Canons Apost. XL. Arelat. XIX.* express it. To all which I reply,

1. The *Greek* Copy compared with Translations, having the Reputation of an Original, is not to be neglected, though in the *Arabick* Paraphrase the Clause about City Presbyters is omitted; for it might be either negligently or willingly done: Besides, if this Clause had never been in the Original, there still remains enough to carry our Point in that, as we shall hereafter prove the *Chorepiscopi* were but Presbyters, and yet by the other parts of this Canon had power to ordain both *Presbyters* and *Deacons*, at least with the permission of the City-Bishop.

To the Second, touching *Isidore's* Translation, which differs from *Hervetus's* and *Dionysius Exiguus's*, as well as from every *Greek Copy*, cannot be of strength enough to invalidate an Original, any more than the *Vulgar*, or any other Translation of the Bible, can blast the Reputation of the Originals either of the Old or New Testament.

What hath been already urged about *de Marca's* disgust against ἐν ἐπέχει παροικία, and *Thorndike's* quarrel with ἐν ἐκείνῃ παροικία, is a sufficient Answer to his *Third Argument*: For if the Canon hath any meaning, be it ἐν ἐπέχει, or ἐν ἐκείνῃ παροικία, or be there an Omission of this Expression, it cannot but be granted, that before this Council the *Chorepiscopi* did Ordain Presbyters and Deacons without the City-Bishop's leave, and afterwards with it.

To the Fourth, that the Council of *Laodicea* did many Years after this make the same Provision, hath nothing of Argument in it to prove, That the Council of *Ancyra* did so, long before *Laodicea's* doing it now, seeing it's not by way of confirmation of an antecedent Decree, is a sufficient intimation, that *Ancyra* did it not.

However, seeing *Thorndike* will provoke us to consult this 56th, or rather 57th Canon of *Laodicea*, to it we will go; which on a diligent search we find to run thus: Ὅτι ἐν ταῖς κώμαις καὶ ἐν ταῖς χώραις καθίστασθαι ἐπισκοπὸς, [ἀλλὰ], say some, [ἢ] say others, περιουτῶς. *Hervetus* renders it thus, Quod non oportet in vicis & pagis Episcopus constitui, sed Periodentatas; hoc est, Circumcursentores. *Dionysius Exiguus*, Quod non oporteat in Villulis vel in Agris Episcopus constitui, sed Visitores. *Isidore Mercator* thus, Non oportet in Villis & vicis Episcopus Ordinari, sed Visitatores; (i. e.) qui Circumeant, Constitui: No Bishops ought to be appointed in the Countrey Towns or Villages, but Visitors. Neither of these take notice of the Various Reading: for it may be [ἢ] as well as [ἀλλὰ], and so be thus translated: For the future there shall not be Ordained in Countrey Places any Bishops or Periodenta, or Visitors, making the Periodenta and Countrey Bishops the same; as *De Marca*, though he observes not this various Reading does, Unde Constantier asserere audeo eundem esse Chorepiscopum, & Periodentum; and as the same *De Marca* further observes, these Periodenta

were only Presbyters, as in the 4th *Action* of the Council of *Chalcedon*, mention is made of *Alexander, Presbyter*, and *Periodonta*, and in the 11th *Action* of *Valentine, Presbyter*, and *Periodonta*; whence I infer, that it's clear from this and the following parts of the Canon, that till this Council, Presbyters were not so very much under the Power of the Bishops, but could act according to their own discretion, without consulting the City-Bishops. The Canon is, Τὰς μὲν τοὶ ἦδη προετασταθέντας μὴ δὲν ἀφάρτην ἀνευ γνώμης τῶ ἐπισκόπου τῶ ἐν τῇ πόλει, and thus rendered by *Heruetus, Eos autem qui prius constituti fuerunt, nihil agere sine mente Episcopi, qui est in Civitate*, clearly enough insinuating, that until this Council the *Chorepiscopi*, the *Periodonta*, who were but Presbyters, did act in the Country as they judged meet, without consulting the Bishop of the City; and it's well known, that their work was to Ordain Presbyters, Deacons, &c.

Thus much may suffice to vindicate what we have drawn from the Council of *Ancyra* to establish the Power of the *Chorepiscopi*, who agreeably enough to the 13th Canon of this Council, might exercise Episcopal Jurisdiction in their own Precinct, without the leave of the City-Bishop, and with his Permission they might do so out of their own Charge, even in the City.

To proceed, it's very clear that long after this time, yea, long after *Damasus*, this Severity against the *Chorepiscopi*, and *Leo the Third's* Attempt to suppress and banish them, when *Charles the Great* sent *Arno Inrvavensis* to know the mind of his Holiness about them, they continued in the Exercise of their Office, governing the Country-Churches, ordaining Presbyters, &c. And altho' *Hincmarus*, as *Baluzius* in *de Marca* out of *Flodoardus* his History observes, wrote bitterly against those City-Bishops that had 'em in their Dioceses, yet *Rabanus Maurus* pleads as warmly in their Defence, and they were continued in *France* and elsewhere. *Elpidius* a Monk, was ordained Presbyter by *Timothy* a Country Bishop: *Amalbertus*, a *Chorepiscopus*,

*De Marca de Concord. lib.*

2. c. 13, 14.

*Flodoard. Hist. Remens. lib. 3. c. 29.*

In *Histor. Langiaca apud Palladium*, c. 106. *Legimus Elpidium Monachum Presbyterum ordinatum à Timotheo Chorepiscopo. Chorepiscopus in Ecclesiis vacantibus inuit Hugo governed*

Flavinac. an. 775. & Ber-  
carius in Hist. Episcop.  
Verdanensium, n. 13. Post  
hunc, Episcopatus istius Ec-  
clesiæ per 12. annos va-  
cuus extitit, sed quidem  
fervus Dei (Amalbertus ne-  
mine,) juxta morem illius temporis Chorepiscopus factus ipsam regebat Ec-  
clesiam. For all these see Du Fresne's *Glossary*, ver. Chorepiscopus.

governed the Church of *Ver dun* during  
a Vacancy of twelve years, consecra-  
ted Churches, confirm'd Children, &c.  
as may be seen in *Rudolphus* his Life of  
*Rabanus Maurus*, and in *De Marca*.

That the *Chorepiscopi* did exercise the *Episcopal* Power, al-  
tho' they were but Presbyters, may plainly be seen in the De-  
crees that were against 'em, interdicting their presuming so  
to do for time to come. 'Twas this that

*Vid. Epist. 5. Damasi I.*  
Prospero Numidiæ primæ  
sedis Episcopo, Leoni, re-  
parato, &c.

fill'd the Soul of *Damasus I.* with so  
much indignation against them, that  
they being but Presbyters, presumed to  
discharge the Episcopal Office: And

for this very reason it was, that *Leo* the Third, in Answer  
unto the Question mov'd by *Charles* the Great, condemn'd  
them to Banishment, as may be seen in the select Ecclesiastical  
*Capitula* of *Charles* the Great, where it's very clear, that tho'  
the French Prelates mitigated somewhat of the Rigour of the  
Pope's severe Decree against them, yet concurr'd so far with  
him, as to Ordain that the Country-Bishops do no more en-  
ter on the Execution of the Episcopal Office, *ita ut amplius*  
*nihil de Episcopali ministerio præsumerent*; and they decreed,  
That no Country-Bishop presume, by Imposition of Hands, to  
give the Holy Ghost to any, or Consecrate any Priest, Levite,  
or Subdeacon. And tho' these *Capitula* do null and make void  
all the Ordinations and Consecrations of the *Chorepiscopi*,

*Vide Epist. 15. Nichol. I.*  
*Tit. 1.*

*Nicholas* the First doth ratify and confirm  
them, as may be seen in his Epistle to  
*Radolfus*, and thus he did for the very  
Reason, the *Capitula* as well as *Leo* and

*Damasus*, did damn them. *Damasus* says, that they are the  
same with Presbyters, because they are instituted according to the

*Tit. 4. c. 3.*

Form of the Seventy Disciples, who were never  
vested with *Jura Episcopalia*, so *Leo* and the se-  
lect *Capitula* of *Charles* the Great, the *Chorepi-  
scopi*



*scopi* are not Chief Priests, nor Bishops, neither do any of the Episcopal Rights belong unto them, seeing they were instituted according to the Form of the Seventy, for which cause let no one say, That when any of those who have been Ordained by the Chorepiscopi, are afterwards Ordained by the City-Bishop, that they were Re-ordained, but let 'em attend that Saying, Quod non offenditur gestum, ratio non finit, ut videntur iteratum. And Pope *Nicholas I.* gives this as a Reason, why he judges their Ordination valid. The Chorepiscopi were such as the Seventy, sent out by our Lord Jesus, who without doubt were vested with the Episcopal Power.

Et ne alicui talis Ordinatio, vel Confirmatio, aut Consecratio Reiteratio esse videatur.

But tho' these Papal Determinations are different, yet they agree in witnessing to this Truth, That the *Chorepiscopi* exercis'd Episcopal Authority. *De Marca* proves the same out of the *Arabian* Canons, translated by *Alfonfus Pisanus*, and from the last words of the Canon of *Antioch*. *Dr. Parker* himself makes no doubt of it; for (says he) That these *Chorepiscopi* had the Character of Proper Bishops, appears plainly from the tenth Canon of *Antioch*, that allows them to Ordain the inferiour Officers of the Church.

*Parker's Account, p. 154.*

This of *Bishop Parker* doth exactly agree with the 55. Chapter of *Nice*, as translated out of *Arabick* by *Turrianus* the Jesuit. When the *Chorepiscopus* visits the Churches and Monasteries under his Power, let him gather together the Elders of Castles, and expound unto 'em the Holy Scriptures, and enquire whether they have any Sons or Daughters, and give order that they be brought unto him, that he may sign 'em, pray over them, impose Hands on 'em, bless and institute Ministers, that is, say the Notes on this Chapter, *Lectores, Exorcista, & Hypodiaconi.*

And that these *Chorepiscopi* were but of the same Order with Presbyters, and were no otherwise Bishops than as all other Presbyters are, is as clear; for their Ordination was by one Bishop only, not by three, and when they entred on the Exercise of the Episcopal Power, they had no new Consecration, as may be seen in the 54. Chapter of *Nice*, translated out of the *Arabick*, where *Turrianus* renders it thus: *Et debet Episcopus* [vid.

Chorepiscopus non ordinabatur, sed per orationem benedicebatur.

*sub Potestate ejus sunt.*

The Notes on this Chapter have it, that they were not consecrated anew to the Office of a Country-Bishop, but only by the Prayer of the City-Bishop blessed. *Damasus I.* expressly affirms them to be but Presbyters, in these words; *Quod ipsi iidem sunt qui & Presbyteri, sufficienter inveniuntur, quia ad formam & exemplum septuaginta inveniuntur prius instituti.* The select *Capitula* of *Charles the Great*

*Tit. 4. c. 3.* concurring with *Leo the Third*, and speaking of the Episcopal Rights, say the same; *Hæc verò non à Presbyteris vel Chorepiscopis, qui ambo unius formæ esse videntur.*

Besides, such were some of the Ancient Canons, decreeing that there should be but one Bishop in a Diocess; and he only in the City, that made it necessary for some of those who anciently would have the Bishops to be of an Order superiour above Presbyters to hold that these *Chorepiscopi*, tho' they had the name of Bishop given 'em. and were vested with the *Jura Episcopalia*, were but Presbyters usurping on the Episcopal Office; so *Damasus*, *Leo*, and many French Bishops in *Charles the Great's* days; and it hath also put some later Writers, such as *Bel-larmine*, *Boverius* in his *Parænetic Censure* of *de Dominis*, *Arch-bishop of Spalato's* Book *de Rep. Eccles.* and *De Marco* to phan-  
 sise, that some, made *Chorepiscopi*, were formerly consecrated to the Episcopal Dignity, and that others were but Presbyters; and thus by distinguishing the Office from the Person, they hoped to extricate themselves; but as *Dr. Parker* well observes, *This is precariously said without any shadow of Pretence for it, but meerly to salve his own Hypothesis.*

*Thorndike of Rights of Church.*  
*P. 145.*

Others, such as *Thorndike*, are driven to the Invention of another Distinction, "which is between the Solemnity which an Act is executed with, and the Power and Authority by which it is done. "And that it cannot be prejudicial to any Power to do that "by another, which seemeth not fit to be immediately and "perfo-

“ personally executed by it. Some Acts of the Primitive Church seem to require this Distinction; as the making of Presbyters by the *Chorepiscopi*, or Countrey-Bishops, mentioned in the ancient *Greek* Canons. Which by all likelihood were not properly Bishops, because not Heads of a City-Church, which is the Apostolical Rule for Episcopal Churches. Thus *Thorndike*, who differs greatly from the generality of his Brethren, who hold, that though the *Potestas Jurisdictionis* may be delegated to one that is not a Bishop, yet the *Potestas Ordinis* cannot. However, it must be acknowledged, that there is a great difference between a Presbyter’s Ordaining other Presbyters with the leave of the Bishop, and his doing it by a Power derived from the Bishop. One vested with a Power, may not be able to exercise it without the leave of another; and yet when he hath leave, he then exercises a Power inherent in himself, *virtute officii*. The Bishops themselves cannot exercise the Power of Orders without the leave of the Supreme Civil Magistrate; and now that they do exercise it, ’tis with his leave; but it does not therefore follow, that the Power of Orders is derived from the Supreme Magistrate to the Bishop.

In the Council of *Ancyra* it’s not said, That the Presbyter shall not Ordain Presbyters, unless the Bishop delegates unto him a Power enabling him so to do; but he shall not exercise this Power without the consent of the Bishop, which was enjoined by the Canon, to prevent Schisms and Divisions in the Church: So that I cannot see how this Distinction of *Thorndike*, so applauded by *Dr. Parker*, can help ’em.

To press this yet further, *Henry* the Eighth’s Suffragans were consecrated Bishops, and had the same Power *virtute officii*, that any other Bishop receiv’d at his Consecration, but may not exercise it unless by Commission from the City-Bishop. But when they did exercise the Episcopal Authority, was it by a Power receiv’d at their Consecration, and inherent in them, or by a Power deriv’d unto ’em from the City-Bishop by Commission? ’Twas by the former, no doubt; why else were they consecrated? If then this Commission given by the City-Bishop to the Suffragan, limiting the Exercise of his Power, doth not infer, that the Suffragan did not act by a Derived Power, much less can these Words, [ *Let not the Chorepiscopus Ordain Presby-*

ters or Deacons without the consent of the City-Bishop] imply, that the *Chorepiscopus* deriv'd the Power of Ordaining from the City-Bishop. The Bishop of *Lincoln* can't Ordain Priests or Deacons in *Westminster-Abby* without the leave of the Dean of *Westminster*; and yet when the Bishop does Ordain any there with the Dean's leave, it's not, I presume, by any Power deriv'd from the Dean that he does it, but by a Power inhering in himself; and the Words ἐν ἐτέρῳ παροικήῳ import no other leave than this.

If then these *Chorepiscopi* be conform'd to the Number of Rural Deanries, and the Rural Deans allowed to exercise the same Power the *Chorepiscopi* did in the ancient Church, 'twill afford great Relief to the Consciences of many Worthy Protestant Dissenting Ministers, without exposing the Church of *England* to the Reproach of Novelty. To return to the Archbishop's *Reduction*, which continues the Second Proposition thus.

*Archbishop.*

“ To this *Synod* the Rector and Church-Wardens might  
 “ present such impenitent persons as by Admonitions and *Sus-*  
 “ pension from the *Sacrament* would not be reformed, who if  
 “ they should still remain contumacious and incorrigible, the  
 “ Sentence of *Excommunication* might be decreed against them  
 “ by the *Synod*, and accordingly be executed in the Parish where  
 “ they lived. Hitherto also all things that concerned the *Pa-*  
 “ rochial Ministers might be referred, whether they did touch  
 “ their *Doctrine* or their *Conversation*, as also the Censure of all  
 “ *New Opinions*, *Hereses* and *Schisms* which did arise within that  
 “ Circuit, with liberty of Appeal, if need so require, unto the  
 “ *Diocesan Synod*.

*Notes.*

It is not to be doubted, but that as soon as the Church of *England* grants unto the Presbyter the Exercise of the *Episcopal Rights*, they will be content that the *Rural Dean*, or *Chorepiscopus* hold his *Synod* of *Parish-Pastors* or *Rectors* within the Precincts of the Rural Deanry, and exercise as much Power as is here desired.

## III.

“ The *Diocesan Synod* might be held once or twice in the  
 “ Year, as it should be thought most convenient. Therein all  
 “ the *Suffragans* [i. e. *Chorepiscopi*], and the rest of the *Rectors*,  
 “ or incumbent Pastors (or a certain select number of every  
 “ *Deanry*) within the *Diocess* might meet, with whose Consent,  
 “ or the *major part* of them, all things  
 “ might be concluded by the *Bishop* or  
 “ *Superintendent*, (call him whether you  
 “ will) or, in his absence by one of the  
 “ *Suffragans*, whom he shall depute in  
 “ his stead to be *Moderator* of that As-  
 “ sembly.

Ἐπισκοπῶντες; (i. e.)  
 Superintendentes, unde  
 & nomen Episcopi tra-  
 ctum est. Hieron. Epist.  
 85. ad Evagrium.

“ Here all matters of greater moment might be taken into  
 “ consideration, and the *Orders* of the monthly *Synods* revised  
 “ and (if need be) reformed: And if here also any matter  
 “ of Difficulty could not receive a full Determination, it  
 “ might be referred to the next *Provincial* or *National* *Sy-*  
 “ nod.

## Notes.

Dr. Poyner, Bishop of Winchester, pleads for the Word *Su-*  
*perintendent*, as much better than that of *Bishop*; and it is a  
 word less offensive to the *Presbyterians* than the other is;  
 and perhaps because the *Archbishop* found it so, he speaks so in-  
 differently of the Name; and to give Reputation to the word  
*Superintendent*, refers us unto St. Hierome: But it's to be hoped,  
 that the wiser of all Parties, when they have concerted the  
 thing, will not quarrel about the Name, whether one or the o-  
 ther.

## IV.

“ The *Provincial Synod* might consist of all the *Bishops* and  
 “ *Suffragans*, and such other of the Clergy as should be elected  
 “ out of every *Diocess* within the *Province*; the *Archbishop* of  
 “ every *Province* might be the *Moderator* of this Meeting, (or  
 “ in his room, some one of the *Bishops* appointed by him) and  
 “ all Matters be ordered therein by common consent, as in the  
 “ former Assemblies.

“ This *Synod* might be held every Third Year; and if the  
 “ Parliament do then sit, ( according to the Act of a *Trien-*  
 “ *mal* Parliament) both the *Archbishops* and *Provincial Synods*  
 “ of the Land might joyn together, and make up a National  
 “ Council: Wherein all *Appeals* from *Inferior Synods* might be  
 “ received, all their *Acts examined*, and all Ecclesiastical Con-  
 “ stitutions which concern the State of the whole Nation *esta-*  
 “ *blished*.

This Scheme of Church-Government, drawn up by this Learned Primate, as it is admirably adjusted to the several Tempers of Men of different Apprehensions about some things in Church-Government, so it is not in the least repugnant to any thing of Christ's Institution; for there is not ascrib'd unto any of the Synodical Conventions a proper Jurisdiction over any Parochial Church. That in Matters of greater moment, care be taken, that all things be done in every Parish by a general Consent, Concord and Agreement, is necessary; and to this end, that the Parish *Rectors* proceed not to Excommunication until they have consulted the *Dean Rural's* Synod; and that what is done by these *Synods* be *examined* by Bishops in a larger Assembly, and that by a larger again, until we come to a National, if the case so require.

Though it be said, Let the Sentence of Excommunication be decreed against the obstinately Impenitent by the Synod, yet it may be understood thus, Let the *Rector* of the Parish consult the Synod, and there come to a Resolution and Determination with the consent of this Synod.

Whoever will consult the Learned Writers of the Church of England, particularly Dr. *Burnet*, now Bishop of *Salisbury*, will see cause to conclude them to be against the Power and Jurisdiction of *Councils*: That they are rather for *Concord* than *Regiment*: That particular Churches, as to matters of Government, are independent on any Convention or Colledge of other Bishops or Pastors whatsoever; that to this very end of securing the Power of the Diocesan or City-Bishop, the Diocesan Church is made a single Church, *Infima Speciei*; and whatever Power, Authority or Jurisdiction belong unto a particular Church of the lowest Rank, they are affirmed to belong to the Diocesan Church; which Dr. *Barrow* hath endeavoured to prove to be independent;

dependent: So that let the bounds of particular Churches be made Parochial, or of no larger extent than a Parish-Congregation, and the Parish-Minister be entrusted with Pastoral Power, to be exercised as above-mentioned, 'twill of course follow, that what is now said to belong to a Diocesan, must be seated in the *Parish-Church*.

There is not so much a Controversie between the Powers, Pre-eminences and Priviledges of a particular Church, as about its Bounds and Limits. Reduce the Bounds of a particular Church to those of a Parish, and the Debate will be at an end as to this point.

That the Primate by *Chorepiscopi* means Presbyters vested with the Episcopal Rights, is manifest from what he, and Dr. Holdsworth in the end of the Reduction thus assert.

*“ We are of the Judgment, That the Form of Government here proposed, is not in any Point repugnant to the Scripture; and that the Suffragans mention'd in the Second Proposition, may lawfully use the Power both of Jurisdiction and Ordination, according to the Word of God, and the Practise of the Ancient Church.*

Ja. Armachanus.

Rich. Holdsworth.

M

CHAP.

**C H A P. VII.**

*The Reasonableness of the Church of England's condescending to establish the Government proposed by Archbishop Usher in this Reduction.*

**I**F then the Government of the Church of England be declared to be the same held by the First Reformers, and by the Renowned Archbishop Usher, any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding.

And the Submission be only unto the Church-Government, as fram'd accordingly, there are many powerful Preachers (if not most of the Sober Godly) amongst the Dissenters will cheerfully enter into Parish-Churches, and be capacitated to exercise their Ministry in Publick, whom the Multitude otherwise will never hear, nor be benefited by their Talents.

The Allowance of this can do no hurt to the Bishops, unless the easing 'em of an intollerable burthen, or discharging 'em of such Duties now incumbent on them, as are impossible to be performed by any.

Besides, that hereby shall all the pious and conscientious Parish-Ministers be put upon the attending those Pastoral Duties which are enjoyned them by the Lord Jesus Christ, in order to the right Guidance and Edification of the particular Churches committed to their Cure.

And as hereby the Church of England will be enlarged and strengthened by the Accession of many Protestant Dissenters, great ease given the Bishops, without the least Diminution of their Temporal Emoluments and Honours; all Parish-Pastors allowed the Exercise of their Functions, as the Lord Christ commanded them. In like manner hereby,

1. The Honour due to the *First Reformers*, that with their Blood, or other grievous Sufferings, sealed to the Truth of the Reformation, shall be maintained and restored. I must say restored, because the altering our Episcopal Government, and



shaping it to the measure of the *Canons* of 1603, and since to the Act of *Uniformity* in *Charles* the Second's Reign, hath made it so much another thing than what they held and defended, that we cannot entitle them to be the Assertors of it without Reproach, or a Vindication. The Episcopacy they were for, I say, was but of the same Alloy with the excellent Moderation of Archbishop *Usher*.

2. This Primitive Government Restored, doth not in the least interfere, or clash with, but most effectually support the *Ancient Regal Power* in matters Ecclesiastical. But the Canonical Episcopacy advanc'd by *Land*, and in its Heighths of Divine Right, establish'd by *Charles* the Second, will on Examination be found to be held by some of the Clergy, as unalterable, to the great Diminution of the King's Ecclesiastical Supremacy, and the Power of Parliaments.

3. This Government Restored, will give Countenance to the *Protestant Reformed Churches* abroad, as well as to the Churches of Dissenters at home, owning their Ministry and Sacraments, and holding Communion with them, as with true Gospel Churches of Christ: Whereas the Episcopacy Unrestored, (our Nobles and Gentry of both Houses, having not been aware of it) does null their Church-State, destroying both their Ministry and Sacraments; and as that very Learned, but herein more dangerous man, Mr. *Dodwell*, will have it, puts 'em out of the common way of Salvation, and into the same deplorable Condition with the *Heathen*. They must be saved by an uncommon Prerogative, or not at all.

It is rather insit on this Particular, because, since his present Majesty, the glorious Instrument of our Deliverance, hath been brought up, and continues in the Communion of these Foreign Reformed Churches, we lye under a special Obligation of our declaring, that we hold Communion with them: And will it not be a surprising Consideration, (if there be any who have not yet reflected on it) that our Church owns the Ministry of the Church of *Rome*, and at the same time disowns the Ministry of the Reformed Churches, even of the Churches, of which His Majesty is now a Member?

4. This Government Restored will remove out of the way of those Dissenters who cannot do all that is necessary to their ob-

obtaining the Advantages of this Comprehension, the principal Blocks, which hinder their holding Communion with the Church of *England*.

The Reason why these Dissenters cannot joyn with the Parish-Assemblies in the Established Worship, so far as I can guess, is not the bare use of a Liturgy, nor the neglect of Discipline, nor because there are some disorderly Members of their Communion, but because the Specifick Nature of Christ's Instituted Churches are destroyed; the Parish-Ministers, who were Gospel-Pastors, deposed, and Church-Government made impracticable, by the erecting Diocesan Churches, one of which, compos'd of many Parishes, under the Government of one only Pastor, call'd the Diocesan Bishop, is made a particular Church of the lowest Rank, and substituting in the room of Parish-Pastors a New Order of *Sub-half-Presbyters*, affirming all that have been baptiz'd and live within the Terriers or Boundaries of the Diocess, how ignorant or scandalous soever, to be fit Matter for an Instituted Church of Christ; and because of their setting up Forms of Prayer in opposition unto, and suppression of Spiritual and Free Prayer; the Corruptions in the Liturgy; and imposing, as Terms of Communion, such Ceremonies as are, in their Consciences, sinful.

If therefore the desired Church-Government be settled, the Parish-Churches will be established as particular Churches of Christ's Institution, their Pastors Restored, Government made practicable, Disorders amended; and tho' some things remain in the Parishes which these men can't conform unto, yet they will own the Parishes thus Constituted and Reformed, for true Churches, and admit their Members, if desired, unto Communion with them.

T H E E N D.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

**P**lain Dealing: Being a Moderate general Review of the *Scotts* Prelatical Clergies Proceedings in the latter Reigns. With a Vindication of the present Proceedings in Church-Affairs there. Printed for *Tho. Parkhurst*, at the *Bible and Three Crowns* in *Cheapside*, near *Mercers-Chapp'l*.



