

felld his fault openly in the same place where he offered, and hath preached the true meaning of the sayd conclusion or proposition in one church or more, as shalbe thought expedient to the Ordinary.

Constit. 6.

Authoritie of the popes decretals not to be doubted vnder paine of heresie.

Item, no manner of person shall presume to dispute vpon y articles determined by y church, as is containyd in the decrees, decretals, our constitutions prouinciall, or in the general Councils. But onely to seek out the true meaning thereof, & that expressly, whether it be openly or in secret: no none shal cal in doubt the authoritie of the said decretals or constitutions, or the authoritie of him that made the, nor teach any thing contrary to y determination thereof: And chiefly concerning the adoration of the holy crosse the worshipping of Images, of sayntes, going on pilgrimage to certayne places, or to the reliques of sayntes, or agaynst y othes in cases accustomed to be gyven in both common places, that is to say, spiritual & temporal: But of all it shalbe commonly taught and preached, that the crosse & Image of the Crucifixe, and other Images of Saynts in the honour of them whom they present, are to be worshipped with procession, bowing of knees, offering of frankincense, kissinges, oblations, lighting of candels, and pilgrimages, and with all other kind of ceremonies and manners that hath bene vsed in the time of our predecessours: And that geuing of othes in cases expressed in the law, and vsed of all men to whome it belongeth in both common places, ought to be done vpon the booke of the Gospell of Christ. Contrarye vnto this who so euer doth preache, teache, or obstinately affirme (except he recant in manner and forme aforesayd) shall forthwith incurre the penaltie of heresie, and shalbe pronounced an heretique, in all effect of law.

Adoration of the crosse.

*With all abominacion.

Constit. 10.

No priest to celebrate without their letters of orders.

Item, we doe decree and ordaine, that no chaplayne be admitted to celebrat in any dioces within our prouince of Caunterbury, where he was not bozne, or not receaued orders: except hee bring with him hys letters of orders, & letters commendatory from his ordinary, and also from other Bishops in whose dioces of a long tyme he hath ben conuerfaunt, whereby his conuersation and maners may appere: So that it may be knowne, whether he hath bene defamed with any new opinion touching y catholick faith, or whether he be free from the same: otherwise, as well he that celebrateth as he that suffereth him to celebrat, shalbe sharply punished at the discretion of the Ordinary.

Constit. 11.

Oxford famous for sincere religion.

Finally, because those things which newly and vnreasonably creepeth vp, standeth need of new and speedy helpe: and where more danger is, there ought to be more wary circumspection and stronger resistance, & and not without good cause: y lesse noble ought discretely to be cut away: that the more noble may the more perfectly be nourished. Considering therefore, and in lamentable wise shewing vnto you, how the auncient Vniuersitie of Oxfozd, which as a fruitful vine was wont to exte sozth her fruitful branches to the honour of God, the great perfection, and benefite of the Church: now partly being become wilde, bringeth forth bitter grapes, which being vndiscretely eaten of auncient fathers that thought themselves skilfull in the law of God: hath set on edge y teeth of their childre: and our prouince is infected with diuers and vnfruitfull doctrines, and defiled with a new & damnable name of Lollardie, to the great repproof and offence of the sayd Vniuersitie being known in foreyn countryes: & to the great irknesomes of the students there, and to the great damage and losse of the Church of England, which in times past by her verue as with a strong wall, was wont to be defended, and now like to runne in rume not to be recovered. At the supplication therfore of y whole clergie of our prouince of Caunterbury: and by the consent and assent of all our brethren & suffragans: and other the prelates in this conuocation assembled, and the proctors of them that are absent: least the ruer being cledid: the fountayne should remaine corrupt and so the water comming from thence should not be pure extending most hoiesomly to prouide for the honour and beuillite of our holy mother the Church and the vniuersitie aforesayd. We do ordaine and decree: that euery warden, srouost: or maister of euery Colledge, or principall of euery hall in the vniuersitie aforesayd: shall once euery moneth at y least, diligently enquire in the sayd Colledge, hall, or other place where he hath authoritie, whether anye scholler or inhabitant in such colledge, or hall, &c. haue holden, alleaged, or defended, or by any means propounded, any conclusion proposition or opinion concerning the catholick faith or founding contrary to good maners, or contrary to the determination of the Church, otherwise then appertayneth to necessary doctrine. And if hee shall finde anye suspected or defamed herein, he shall according to his office admonish him to desiste. And if after such monition geuen, the

Inquisition to be made through Colledges and halles of Ox. worde.

sayde partye offend agayne in the same or suche like, hee shall incurre ipso facto (besides the penalties aforesayd) the sentence of greater excommunication. And neuertheless, if it be a scholler that so offendeth the second tyme, & thereafter he shall afterward doe in the sayd rumerline, shall not stand in effect. And if he be a doctour, a maister, or bachel- ler, he shall forthwith be suspended fro euery schollers act, and in both cases shal lose the right that he hath in the said Colledge or hall, wherof he is, ipso facto: and by the warde: srouost, Maister, principall, or other to who it appertayneth, he shalbe expelled, & a Catholique, by lawfull means forthwith placed in his place. And if the sayd wardens, srouostes or Maisters of Colledges or principalls of halles, shalbe negligent concerning the inquisition and execution of such persons suspected and defamed by y space of y dayes, fro the time of the true or supposed knowledge of y publication of these presentes: y then they shall incurre y sentence of greater excommunication: and neuertheless shalbe deprived ipso facto, of all the right which they haue in y colledges, halles &c. and the sayd Colledges & halles &c. to be effectually vacant: And after lawfull declaration hereof made by them to whom it shall appertayne, new wardens, srouostes, Maisters, or principalls, shalbe placed in they, places, as hath ben accustomed in colledges and halles, being vacant in the sayd vniuersitie. But if the wardens themselves, srouostes, Maisters or principalls aforesayd, be suspected and defamed of and concerning the sayd conclusions or propositions, or be fauourers & defenders of such as doe therein offend: and doe not cease, being therof warned by vs, or by our authoritie: or by y ordinary of the place: that then by law they be deprived, as well of all priuiledge scholasticall within the vniuersitie aforesayd, as also of their right and authoritie in such Colledge, hall, &c. Besides other penalties afoze mentioned, and that they incurre the sayd sentence of greater excommunication.

I would the like were vsed now for the banishing of papistry.

But if any man in any case of this present constitution or any other aboue expressed: do rashly and wilfully presume to violate these our statutes in any part thereof (although there be an other penalty expressly there limited) yet shall he be made altogether vnabie and unworthy by the space of thre yeares after, without hope of pardon to obtayn any ecclesiasticall benefice within our prouince of Caunterbury: and neuertheless according to all hys demerites and the qualitic of hys excess, at the discretion of his superiour he shall be lawfully punished.

Constit. 12.

And further, that y manner of proceeding herein be not thought vncertayne: considering with our selues, that although there be a kinde of equalitic in the crime of heresie and offending the prince, as is aouched in diuers lawes: yet the fault is much vnlike, and to offend the deming maistric requireth greater punishment, then to offend y Prince maistric. And where it is sufficient (for feare of danger that might ensue by delays) to conuince by iudgement the offender of the Prince inauisities proceeding agaynst hym fully & wholly, with a citation sent by messenger, by letters, or edict not admitting prooff by witnesses, and sentence definitive to be: we do ordaine, will, and declare, for the easier punishment of the offenders in the premises, and for the better reformation of the church deuised and hurt, that all such as are defamed, openly knowne, or vberly suspected in any of the cases aforesayd, or in anye article of the catholick faith founding contrary to good maners: by authoritie of the ordinary of the place or other superiour, be cited personally to appeare, eyther by letters, publick messenger being swozne: or by edict openly set at that place where the sayd offender commonly remayneth, or in hys parish Church, if he hath any certayne dwelling house. Or therwise, in y Cathedral church of the place where he was bozne, and in the parish church of the same place where he so preached and taught: And afterwarde certificate being geuen, that the citation was formally executed agaynst the party cited being absent and neglecting hys appearance it shalbe proceeded agaynst him fully and playnly without found or shew of iudgement, and without admitting prooff by witnesses and other canonical probations. And also after lawfull informatio had, the sayd ordinary (al delays let apert) shall signifie declare, and punish the sayd offender, according to the qualitic of his offence, and in forme aforesayd: and further, shall doe according to iustice, the absence of the offender notwithstanding.

Constit. 13.

Easier to offend against the princes law then against the byshops.

Geuen at Oxford.

Who would haue thought by these lawes and constitutions so substantially founded, so circumspectly prouided, so diligently executed: but that the name and memory of this persecuted for, should utterly haue bene rooted vp, and