

K. Henry. 4. Ringinge at the Bishops comming. Penauce of poore men.

Churches of London suspended for not ringing at the comming of the Archb.

The comelinesse of our holy Church of Canterb.ouer whych wee beare rule:deserueth and requirith,that while wee passe through the prouince,of the same our Churche (having our crosse carryed before vs)euery parish church in their turnes,ought & are bounden in token of speciall reuerence that they beare to vs, to ryng theyr bels. Which notwithstanding,ye on Tuesday last past,when wee betwixt 8. and 9.of the clocke before dinner,passed openly on foote as it were, through the middelt of the citie of London,with our crosse carryed before vs: Diuers churches whose names are heere beneath noted, shewed towards vs willingly (though they certainly knewe of our comming)vnreuerence rather then reuerence, and the duty that they owe to our church of Canterb.ringing not at all at our comming. Wherefore,wee being willing to reuenge this iniurie,*for the honor of our spouse as we are bounden: commaunde you, that by our autoritie, you put all those churches vnder our interdement, suspēding Gods holy organes and instrumēt in the same Which we also suspend by the tenor of these presentes, till the ministers of the aforesayde Churches be able hereafter to attaine of vs the benefit of more plentifull grace. Geuen.&c.

* Oh iniurious enemies to Christ his humilitie.

What great reason was in this, why this Archb. either should thus looke for the ringing of the belles, or why hee should be so displeas'd with not ringing, I do not see. Welike his minde in the meane time was greatly occupied w some great muilt, as feling of Gods feare, with repentance and remembrance of hys sinnes, with zelous care and sollicitude for his flocke, wyth the earnest meditation of the passion & life of our sauour, who in this world was so despised: or els was set vpon some graue studie, while hee so waited for the ringing of the bels, which are wont to be so noisome to all students. And why were not the trūpetters also thent as well, because they did not sound before his person? But and though the bels did not clatter in the steeple, and therefore his thunderbolt should haue fallen vpon the steeple which had deserued: why should the bodye of the churche therefore be suspended: At least, the poore Diganes (as they thinke) had some part of wozing to be put to silence in the quier, because the bels rang not in the tower.

Organs suspended in the Church because the belles dyd not ryng.

Of the like matter also we read in the sayde registers, falling betwene the B. of Worcester, and the prior of the same towne, for not ringing at the bishops comming into the church. wherupon much sute and contention was betwene them, till at length the Archb. of Cant. toke vpon the matter, moderating it, as in the said registers, fol. 441. appeareth to be seene as followeth.

Ex Regist. Tho. Arundel. Variance betwene the B. and Prior of Worcester for not ringing at the Bishops comming.

Vniuersis.&c. Thomas &c. where as there happened variance lately betwene our reuerend brother the Lorde B. of Worcester on the one partye, and the religious and discrete men the Prior and couent of the same churche on the one partye, for not ringing of bels at the comming of our saide brother to his foresayde church, at length the parties (considering the great incōuenience that might come therof) at our instance and request did agree on this maner: that as often as it shall happen our reuerend brother to go to his aforesayde church, either to celebrate orders, or to visite his church in the head or in the inferiours, or to make creame and oyle in the same church: also in the feast of the Assumption of the blessed virgin May, which is the chiefest feast in the Abbey aforesayde: then the Prior and the couent, and their successours for the time being, shall ring solemnly against his comming, or shall cause to be ronged solemnly without all contradiction, or any reclaiming hereafter to be made against the same. Which agreement that it may be more firmly kept, we let you all vnderstand by these presents, sealed with our seale. Geuen at our palace of Canterb. 12. Iuly, the 10. yeare of our gouernment.

The like stire for belringing and for processions had almost hapned betwene the Archb. of Can. successor to this Tho. Arundel, named Den. which on the one party, and the abbey of S. Albons on the other party, had not the abbot in time submitting hymselfe to the Archb. so prouided, that the ringing of their bels at hys comming, myght not redounde to any derogation of their liberties. wherunto the Archb. graunted by these his letters as followeth.

Ringing in the Archb. at S. Albos.

HENRY &c. to the religious men, the Abbot and Couent of the Monastery of S. Albons in the diocesse of Lincoln, health.&c. When as of late there happened a matter of variance betwene vs, and you the Abbot & Couent, by reason of not geuing reuerence to vs, being due to our prouince of Cant. that is, for not ringing the bels and meeting vs with processions when wee passed by diuers places of our prouince as well due of common custome as of folde vse, and for the prerogatiue of the Churche of Canterb. as also being due of euery one being within the compasse of this our sayd prouince, when and as often as we shal passe by their places: at length your Lord Abbot (comming personally to vs) did grant

Ex Regist. Hen Chicheley Fol. 365.

both for you and the Couent aforesayde, to do and to geue of your gentleness all reuerence and honour, wyth such reuerence be the to vs and our church of Cant. as often as wee passe by your monasterie, or the places nigh or adioyning therto, or shall hereafter go by: So that it might not be prejudiciall to your exemption and nothing be attempted to the violating of your priuiledge: and that it might not be chalenged for duty hereafter. Wherefore, wee desiring to kepe you from damage, let you vnderstande by these presents, that it is not our entent to derogate your exemptions or priuiledge whatsoeuer herein: nor by any meanes to be prejudiciall to you by these your reuerences or other duties, whatsoeuer you haue or shall graunt to vs of your deuotion and liberalitie, both by you, and in places vnder your dominion. In wytnesse whereof &c. Dated the 28. day of Ianuary 1425. at S. Albons, the 12. yeare of our gouernment.

To expresse mozeouer and describe the glorious pompe of these princelike prelates in these blinde dayes of poppish religion raunging then in the church: I thought to adioyn hereinto an other example not much vnlike, neither differing muche in time, concerning certayne poore men cited vpon, and enioyned straight penance by W. Courtney p̄decessour of the sayd Tho. Arundel, for bringing litter to hys horse, not in waines as they should do, but in priuy lackes, in a secrete maner vnder their clokes or cotes, for which so hainous and horrible trespass, the sayd Archbishop sitting in hys tribunall seate, did call and cite before hym the sayde persons (pro litera i. for litter, after his owne Latine) and after theyr submission enioyned them penance, whych penance, what it was, & what were the names of the forsaid parties, here followeth out of the sayd Arch. registers, both by his owne words, & by picture of the persons in the same registers annoed and painted, in all resemblance, as there standeth, and heere is also to be seene.

W. Courtney Archb. of Cant.

Ex Regist. W. Courtney.

A description of the poore men doing their penance, with their strawe on their backe.

This bagge full of strawe I beare on my backe,
Because my Lordes horse his Litter did lacke,
If ye be not good to my Lordes graces horffe,
You are like to goe barefoote before the crosse.



The picture of them drawn in all proportion according to the exemplar standing in the Register.

ERRORIS mater ignorantia, quosdam Hugonem Pennie, Iohannem Forstall, Iohannem Boy, Iohannem Wanderton, Gulielmum Hayward, & Iohannem White, Tenentes domini de Wengam taliter obcecauit, quod ante aduentum dicti domini Archiepiscopi ad palatium suum Cantuarie in vigilia dominice in ramis palmarum, anno domini millesimo trecentesimo nonagesimo, de cariendo & ducendo ad dictum palatium, scenum, stramen, siue literam, prout ex tenura terrarum, & tenura suorum quas & que tenent de domino & ecclesia sua Cantuarie astringuntur per balliuum domini ibidem iussi & legitime pramoniti debita seruitia more solito impedere dignates, strame huiusmodi non in carrucis & vehiculis publice in sufficiēti quantitate, sed modice in saccis sublatibus, pontificis ad palatium prædictum perduxerūt, CC. ij.

Ex Regist. W. Courtney.

Mark ye Gramarians littera for Littour.