

forbid vnlawful vsuries and gaines of money, but also suffer and maintaine the same. Moreover, they taking a petyly stipend and pension, do suffer the Clergy and other religious persons vnlawfully to dwell with their concubines and harlots, and to beget children by them. For the whych things, howe great perill, offence and detriment they doe bringe bothe vnto body and soule, euery man may plainly see (so that it neede not to be rehearsed) except he will make himselfe as blinde as a mole.

Complaint of Officials permitting vnlawfull cohabitation with other, when the husband or wife are long absent.

Furthermore, where it so happeneth (as it doeth oftentimes) that either the good maunc or the good wife, by meanes of warre or some other howe, hath taken in hande some long iourney, and so tarieth longer then serueth the appetite of the other, the Officiall taking a rewarde of the other, geueth licence to the party to dwell wyth any other person, not hauing first regard or making inquisition whether the husband or wife being absent, be in health or dead: and because these their doings shoulde not be euill spoken of, they name it a tolleracion or sufferance, nor without greate offence vnto all men, and to the great contempt of holy matrimonie.

Complaint of Canons in Cathedrall Churches, which haue their E. sworne vnto them, before he be chosen.

This is also vnlawfull and plainly wicked, that the Canons of Cathedrall Churches, in whose hand the principal part of Ecclesiasticall iudgements, Synodes, and censures do consist, and the Canons of other collegiate churches, which haue power and authoritie to chuse their Superior and Bishop, will chuse none to their Bishop, except he binde himselfe first with an oth, and plainly sweare, yet and offerment is bound by bond and instrumēt sealed wyth their seales to them and their Ecclesiasticall iudges, y in no matter, be it neuer so greivous, intollerable, or dishonnest, he shall not be against them: and if it happen at any time that they doe offend, they may do it also wythout punishment for him.

* Complaint against incorporations or impropertions and other pilling of the people, by Churchmen.

Any parish churches are subiect vnto monasteries, or to the persons of other churches, by meanes of incorporations (as they call them) or other wise, whych they are bound also, according to the canon lawes, to forseeke & look vnto, by themselves; when as they do put them forth vnto others to be gouerned, reseruing for the mosse parte vnto themselves, the whole stipende of the benefices and tithes: and moreover, aggravate & charge the same wyth great pensions, that the hiring priestes and other ministers of the Church, can not haue thereupon a decent or competent living: wherby it commeth to passe, that these hirelinge priestes (for that they must needs haue wherupon to liue) doe with vnlawfull exactions, miserably spoil and deuour the poore sheepe committed vnto them, & consume all theyr substance. For when as the Sacramentes of the aultare and of Baptisme are to be administred, or when the firste, the seuenth, the thirtieth, and yeare day must be kept, when auricular confession cometh to be heard, the dead to be buried, or any other ceremony whatsoever, about the funerall is to be done: they will not do it freely, but extort and exact so much money, as the miserable communalty is scarce able to disburse; and daily they do encrease and augment these their exactions, daining the simple poerty to the payment therof, by threatening them with excommunication, or by other waies, compelling them to be at charge: which otherwise through poerty, are not able to maintaine obsequies, yeeremindes, and suche other like ceremonies, as to the funeralls of the dead be appertaining.

* Burying and pilling of burials contained of.

It is ordained by the Popes Canons, that buriall in the Church shoulde be denied onely vnto them, whych being known to be manifest & notozious offenders, haue departed this life without receiuing of the sacrament. But the clergy not regarding those decrees, will not suffer suche as by chance are drowned, killed, slaine with falles, or fire, or o-

therwise by chance haue ended their liues, (albeit it be not evident, that they were in deadly sinne) to be buried in the churches, vntill such time, as the wiues, children or friends of those men so dead, do with great summes of money purchase and buy the burial of them in the Churchyard.

* Chaste and continent priestes compelled to pay tribute for concubines.

Also in many places, the bishops & their Officials do not only suffer Priestes to haue concubines, so that they paye certayne summes of money, but also compell continent and chaste Priestes, which liue without concubines, to paye tribute for concubines, affirming that the B. hath neede of money, which being payde, it shall be lawfull for them, either to liue chaste or keepe concubines. Howe wicked a thing this is, euery man doeth well vnderstande and knowe.

These with many other burthens and greivances mo to the number of an hundred, the secular states of Germanie deliuered to the Popes legate, hauing (as they sayd) many mo, and moze greivous greivances besides these, which had likewise much neede of redresse: but because they would not exceede the limites of reasonable breuity, they would content themselves (said they) with these aforesaid hundred, reseruing the rest to a more apt and more conuenient opportunity, steadfastly trusting & hoping, that when those hundred greivances, already by them declared, should be abolished, the other would also decay, & fall wyth them. Of the which aforesaid greivances and complaints here is moreover to be noted, that a great part was offered vp before, to y^e Emperour, at the counsel of woymes: but because no redresse thereof did folow, therfore the secular states of Germanie thought good to exhibite the same now againe, with diuers moe annexed therunto, to Cheregatus the Popes Legate, in this present assise of Rozenberge, desiring him to present the same to Pope Adrian. This was about the yere of our Lord 1523, which being done, the assemble of Rozenberge brake vp for a time, and was propoged to the nexte yere following.

In this meane time Pope Adrian died. After him succeeded pope Clement 7. who the next yere following, whych was An. 1524. sent downe his Legate Cardinall Campeius, vnto the Council of the Germane Princes assembled againe at Rozenberge, about the month of March, with letters also to duke Friderick, full of many faire petitions, and sharp complaints, &c. But as touching the greivances about mentioned, no word nor message at all was sent, neither by Campeius, nor by any other. Thus, where any thing was to be complained of againste Luther, cyther for suppression of the liberty of the Gospel, or for vpholding of the Popes dignity, the Pope was ever ready with all diligence, to call vpon the Princes: but where any redresse was to be required, for the publicke wealth of Christen people, or touching the necessary reformation of the church, herein the Pope neither geueth care, nor answer.

And thus hauing discouried such matters occurred betwene the Pope & Princes of Germany, at the Synode of Rozenberge, let vs now proceede, returninge againe to the story of Luther: of who y^e heard before, howe he was kept secret & solitarie for a time, by the aduise and conuenance of certain nobles in Saxony, because of the Emperours Edict, about mentioned. In the meane time, while Luther had thus absented himselfe out of Wyttenberge, Andreas Carolostadius proceeding more roughly and eagerly in causes of Religion, had stirred by the people, to throwe downe images in the temples, beside other things moe. For the which cause, Luther returninge againe into the city, greatly misliked the order of their doings, and reproveth the rashnesse of Carolostadius, declaring, that they proceededes herein were not orderly: but that pictures & images ought first to be throwen out of the hearts and consciences of men, & that the people ought first to be taught: that we are saued before God, and please him onely by faith, and that Images serue to no purpose: this done, and the people well instructed, there was no danger in Images, but they would fall of their owne accord. Not that he repugned to the contrary (he saith) as though he would mainteine Images to stand or to be suffered: but that this ought to be done by the magistrate, and not by force, vpon euery private mannes head, without order and authority. Ex Ioan. Sled. lib. 3.

Furthermore, Luther wytyng of Carolostadius, affirmeth that he also wytyng with the sentence of them, which began then to spread about certaine parts of Saxony, saying that they were taught of God, that all wickednes being vtterly suppressed, and all the wicked doers slaine, a newe full perfection of all thyngs must be sette vp, and the innocent onely to enioy all thyngs, &c.

Concubines permitted for money and chaste priestes compelled to pay tribute for concubines.

The diet of Norenberge began an. 1522. and brake vp, an. 1523. The death of Pope Adrian. Pope Clement 7.

Cardinall Campeius the Popes Legate into Germany. The Pope onely seeketh his own dignitie, but publicke reformation he neuer teacheth.

Caroloſtadius caſteth downe Images in Witteberg.

Luther misliketh calling out of Images by strong hand.

Ex Ioan. Sled. lib. 3.

The practise in chapters of cathedral churches to make the byshop sworne vnto them.

The incoueniencie of impropertions.

Cruell exaction of the people by churchmen.

Gaines gotten by selling burials.