

have more largely expressed to be read and scene of all posteritie, as vnder followeth.

The Acte against Priestes mariage concluded in the Councell at Winchester, vnder Anselme, An. 1104.

Actes concluded at the Councell in Winchester.

Hæc sunt statuta de Archidiaconibus, Præbiteris, & Canonicis in quocunque gradu constitutis, quæ Wintoniæ statuturunt Anselmus Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis, & cum eo Girardus Archiepiscopus Eboracensis, & omnes alij Angliæ Episcopi, in præsentia gloriosi Regis Henrici, assensu omnium Baronum suorum Statutum est ut Præbiteri, & Diaconi castè viuant, & sceminas in domibus suis non habeant præter proxima consanguinitate sibi iunctas, secundum hoc quod sancta Nicena Synodus definiuit. Illi verò præbiteri, diaconi, sive subdiaconi, qui post interdictum Londonensis Concilij, sceminas suas tenuerunt vel alius duxerint, si elegerint in sacris ordinibus remanere, iure quod cum eis carnale commercium non habebunt amplius. Statutum est etiam ut prædicte sceminae in domo cum eis scienter non concubant, neque huiusmodi semini in territorio Ecclesiæ habitent. Si autè propter aliquam honestam causam eos colloqui oporteat, cum duobus ad minus legitimis testibus extra domum colloquantur. Si verò in duobus aut tribus legitimis testibus vel publica parochianorum fama, aliquis eorum accusatus fuerit, quod hoc statutum transierit, purgabit se ad iudicis secum ordinis sui iudicis testibus, sed si præbiter, quinque si diaconus, quatuor si subdiaconus fuerit. Cui autem hæc purgatio defecerit, ut transgressor sacri statuti indicabitur. Illi verò præbiteri qui diuini altaris & sacrorum ordinum contemptores præelegerunt cum vxoribus suis habitare, a diuino officio remoti, extra horum ponantur, infamæ pronuntiantur. Eadem sententia Archidiaconos & Canonicos omnes complectitur & de abstinendis vxoribus, & de vitanda eorum conuersatione, & de districtione censuræ si statuta transgressi fuerint. Turbantur & Archidiaconi omnes quod pecuniam non accipient pro tolleranda transgressione huius statuti. Sed neque vlllo modo tollerabunt præbiteros vxoratos cantare, vel vicarios habere, & quod non possunt dissimulare per Archidiaconos suos hoc inuulgere, & fideliter episcopis suis renuntiabunt, & attente, & fideliter de exequenda istius rei vniuersa dicta Episcopo suos adiuuabunt. Qui verò Archidiaconus vel Diaconus hoc iurare noluerit, Archidiaconum vel Diaconum irreparabiliter perdet. Præbiteri verò qui relictas vxores deo & sacris ordinibus seruire elegerunt, euafragantibus ab officio cessantes, pro reuocatis habebunt; iniuria eis pœnitentia secundum quod Episcopi eorum iuramentum faciunt.

* Forte extra horum paradii intellegit.

The cruell law of Anselme tooke no great place.

Episcopi Anselm. 77. Rodulphus Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis.

Read afore pag. 294.

Ricardus de Turbie Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis.

Of this Cardinal Cremonensis read before pag. 294.

Dir bebed ye Arcebyscop william of Cantersbryge. I calle ða leod Byscoper ða ða pæson on Engelond, I ne forp tood noht ealle ða bodlacef. eall heoloon hep pæper be ðer Kinges leue. ppa ppa hi eap didon; That is to say in English, This William the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops which were in England did commaund, and yet all these decrees and biddings stood not: all held their wyues by the kings leue, euen so as they before did, &c. So hard was this cause to be wonne, that the Archb. at length gaue it ouer, and left the contrarye wholly vnto the kyng. Whereupon he decreed that the Priestes should remaine with their wyues still. And so continued they after that, in the tyme of Theobaldus after hym, of Tho. Becker, Rich. Baldwme, Steven Langton, Rich. Edmund, Boniface, Beccam, and other, during weinere the tyme after Anselme, 200. yeares.

Cronic, Saxonie,

The priests kept their wyues contrary to the Archbishops commaundment,

¶ An. 25. Hen. 1.

Priestes with wyues how long they continued in England after Anselme.

And least the quarelling aduertyary beynge veraduertere disposed here to canill, should obiect and say, that such marriage among the Spiritual men might be pinate and secrete, but not openly knowne, nax quietly suffered by any lawe of this Realme: to answere therefore what maye be by them objected, I thought it good, and as a thing neyther impertinent nor vnprouitable to this storye, and for the further satisfiing of the Readers mynd hereun, to inferre and make knowne by good recorde, not onely that the libertie of marriage amongst spiritual men, hath continued within this Realme during the tyme aforesayde, (videlicet) was honored yeares of the reaboute, after Anselme, and that not in secrete wise, but also openly, and beynge knowne, the same to be suffered and lawfully allowe of, in such sort, as both they, their wyues, children, and assignes might inherite and enioye landes, tenementes, and other hereditamentes, by waye of testamente, decede of wyte, or any other assurance, in suche sorte, maner, and forme, as laye men, their boyes and assignes at this day lawfully maye doe. As by diuers writings and instrumentes shewed vnto vs at the writinge hereof, by diuers men (whose names hereafter follow) some to this day remaininge paye sealed, some by antiquite and long keepinge, much worne, and their seales mouldred and wasted, is very evident and manifest to be seene. The copies wherof beynge by vs truly and faithfully excerpted out of the very originals (beyng yet extant) we haue here vnder inserted, as followeth.

Curayne Instrumentes and Euidences of ancient recorde, declaring the marriage of priests to haue stande in tymes passe, both with ancient custome, & public lawes of this Realme.

Clare presentes & futuri quod ego Williel. de Blunville miles & hanc presenti carta mea confirmatur Stephano de Saxlingham Clerico, & Matilde vxori sue pro homagijs & seruicijs suis, & pro sex marcs argenti, quas mihi dederunt in xgerium annorum paciam terre arabijs, quas faceret campo de Neuton in cultura, inter meluagium Gahidi Sulyard, & cœmetorium Episcopi de Neuton, inter terram Radulphi Malherbe, & terram Ioannis de Neuton, & abuarat super reglum stratum versus orientem, & super terram que fuit Henrici Popiltele versus occidentem: Habend. & tenend. de me & heredibus meis illis & heredibus suis aut cuiuscunq; dare, legare, vendere vel assignare voluerint, in quocunq; loca fuerint, libere, quiete, in feodo, per petuis & hereditate reddendo inde annuatim mihi & heredibus meis duos denarios scilicet ad festu sancti Andree denarium & ad natiuitate sancti Iohannis baptista vnu denarium, Et ad feutagium domini regis, quando euenit vnum obolum tantu & non amplius pro omnibus seruicijs, consuetudinibus, sectis curiæ, & exactionibus secularibus. Et ego Williel. de Blunville, & heredes mei vniuersi iurabimus, acquietabimus & defendemus prædictam peciam terre prænominatis Stephano & Matilde vxori sue & heredibus suis, aut cuiuscunq; dare, legare, vendere, vel assignare voluerint contra omnes gentes tam Iudeos quam Christianos in perpetuum per præfatum seruitium. Et vt hæc concessio & donatio rata sit & stabilis in perpetuum, hæc cartam sigillo meo roborau; His testibus, Radulpho Malherbe, Willielmo de Reyneforpe, Ioanne de Neuton, Willielmo Canebot, Ioan. filio Simonis, Milone de Mogh, Radulpho de Kingham, Willielmo de Campo, Thomæ Croce, Andr. Waleys, Willielm. Valant, & alijs.

Carta testamente Williel. de Blunville militis, fact. Stephano de Saxlingham Clerico & Matilde vxori sue, de terris Newton in Com. Norff.

This sayd peere of Euidence called a decede of scofement of lands remaineth in the keeping of Thomas Blunke Esquier at this present (videlicet) 2. die Nouembris, Anno R. Eliza

One peere of Euidence in the custody of M. Tho. Blundcull.