

have more largely exprest to be read and seene of all posterite, as vnder followeth.

The Acte against Priestes mariage concluded
in the Councell at Wincheste, vnder An-
selme, An. 1104.

Actes con-
cluded at the
Councell in
Wynchester,

Hec sunt statuta de Archidiacibus, Praesbyteris, & Canonicis in quoconque gradu constitutis, que Wintonia statuerunt Anselmus Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis, & cum eo Girardus Archiepiscopus Lboracensis, & omnes alii Anglia Episcopi, in presentia gloriis Regis Henrici, assensu omnium Baronum suorum Statutum est ut Presbyteri, & Diaconi castè viuant, & foeminas in dominis suis non habeant præter proxima consanguinitate sibi iunctas, secundum hoc quod sancta Nicena Synodus definiuit. Illi vero presbyteri, diaconi, siue subdiaconi, qui post interdictum Londonensis Concilij, foeminas suas tenerint vel alias duxerint, si elegerint in sacris ordinibus remanere, iuræ quod cum eis carnale committentur non habebunt amplius. Statutum est etiam ut predicti foeminae in domo cum eis scierint non conueniant, neque huc modi femine in territorio Ecclesie habitent. Si autem propter aliquam honestam causam eos colloqui oporteat, cum duobus ad minus legitimis testibus extra dominum colloquuntur. Si vero in duabus aut tribus legitimis testibus vel publica parochianorum summa, aliquis eorum accusatus fuerit, quod hoc statutum transuerit, purgabit se adiunctis secum ordinis sui idoneis testibus, sex si presbyter, quinque si diaconus, quatuor si subdiaconus fuerit. Cui autem hec purgatio defecerit, ut transgressor facili statuti indicabitur. Illi vero presbyteri qui diuinis altaris & sacrorum ordinum contemptores pælegerint, cum uxoribus suis habitare, a diuino officio remoti, extra horum ponantur infames pronunciati. Eadem sententia Archidiaconos & Canonicos omnes complectitur & de abituranti uxoribus, & de vitanda earum conuersatione, & de distinctione confusione statuta transgressi fuerint. Iurabunt & Archidiaconi omnes quod peccinam non accipient pro tolleranda transgressione huius statuti. Sed neque illo modo tollerabunt presbyteros & cleros cantare, vel vicarios habere, & quod nisi nota dissimulabile per Archidiaconos suos hoc iniquitatem & fideliter episcopis suis renunciabunt, & attenerent, & fideliter de exequenda statuta ei via dicta Episcopos suos adiungabant. Qui vel o Archidiaconus vel Diaconus hoc iurare noluerit, Archidiaconatus vel Diaconatus irreparabiliter perdet. Presbyteri vel o qui velatis uxoribus Deo & sacris ordinibus seruire elegerint, ouia fragilitas eis officio cessantes, pro se vienios habebunt, iniuncta eis pœnitentia secundum quod Episcopis contumaciam suam facta est. Nam & oportet invenire in regno nostro, & minoris & cunctis sequi-

*Forte extra
horum pa-
radisi intel-
ligit.

The cruel
law of An-
selme tooke
no great
place.

Ex. epist.
Ant. 77.
Rodulphus.
Archiepisc.
Can.

Ricardus de
Rutbe.
Arch. Can.

Of this Car-
dinal Cre-
mensis read
before pag.
294.

And yet this unreasonablie statute of Anselme, so vngently defended with halfe tenures and penallies, had great spred, neither in the tyre tyme of the late Anselme, nor long after his death, but that divers priests notwithstanding keping their wifes, or that after his death, they returned to their wifes agayne, through the lassurance of the famous & learned king named then Henry Beuelclark who loosing layed the oponniture of the knyght prelate, and willed that priests should keþe both their wyues and they Churches, as they did before in Lanfrances dares.

Then after Anselme followed Radulphus Archiepiscop of Canterbury, in whose tyme was no greater turme against the Prelates that were married. About the tyme of this Archiepiscop, King Henry railed a Countesse at London, wher he obtained of her iurantiale a graunt to haue the punishment of maried priests, whiche the spiritualitie afterward did much repeyre, wþþ by the poore paying a certaine to the King, wþþ the like to retaine their wifes still, as is above storied, pag. 294. H. in his mōre, in his p-

After this Radulph, then Englester Williel. de Blundville miles, furnans to De Turbipes, who couched againe the constitution of Anselme against maried priests, especially by the helpe of Joannes cardinalis Cardinall of Cremona & Popes Legate, sent the same tyme into England, anno. 1119. Of which Cardinall Clementis, because enough hath bene before declared, how mere his sonn replying in the councell of London, against the maried state of priests, exclaiming whiche a shamefull thing it was, to cile from the sides of an wþþore, to make schisites body, the night following was shamefully taken with a notable wþþore, &c. as is apparent before, pag. 294.

I will therefore passe over that matter, returning againe to Willielm the Archiepiscop, who with the Cardinall Legate aforesaid, although he busily occupied himself in reparing the matrimonie of priests: in so much, that he would genc the no longer relift to put away their wyues, but from Michaclmas to Saint Andrews day following, yet could he not byng hys purpose to passe, but that the priests still continueth with their wyues by the kyngs leue, as the Saxo story plainly recordeth in these wordz:

Dir bebed ye Ajncebiscop william of Canterbury. I calle da leod Biscoper da da pœpon on Engeland, ne popr too noht calle da bodlacer. call heoldon hej piþer be ðer Kinge leue. ppa ppa hi east dirdon; That is to say in English, This William the Archibishop 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, even so as they before did, &c. So hard was this cause to be wonne, that the Archib. at length gaue it ouer, and left the contrarie who ly unto the kyng. Whereupon he decreed that the Priests should remaine with their wyues still. And so continued they after that, in the tyme of Theobaldus after hym, of Tho. Becker, Rich. Baldwin, S. Langton, Rich. Edmund, Boniface, Peccham, and other, during welme the tyme after Anselme, 200. years.

And least the quarrelling adulterary byng veraduence disposed here to canut, shold obiect and lay, that such marriage among the spiritual men might be private and secrete, but not openly known, nor quickly suffered by any lawe of this Realme: to avoyde therefore what maye be by them obiect, I thought it god, and as a tnyng neyther impertinente nor vnyprofitable to this storie, and for the further satisfying of the Readers axaynde hereunto, to inferre and make knownen by good recorde, not onely that the therrie of marriage amongst spirituall men, hath continued wþþ this Realme duryng the tyme aforesayde, (videlicet) two hundred yeares or thereabouts, after Anselme, and that not in secrete wise, but also openly, and beyng knowne, the same to be suffered, and lawfully allowed of, in such sort, as both they, their wyues, children, and affigies mighte haue and enioye landes, tenementes, and other hereditamentes, by waye of leffament, deede of gyfte, or any other assuraunce, in such sorte, manner, and forme, as laye men, their boyres and affigies at this day lawfully may doe. As by divers bookeinges and instrumenates shewed unto vs aþoþe wþþing hereof, bydiners men (whose names hereafter follow) come to this day remaining fayre sealed, some by antiquite and long keepynge, much wþþine, and their seales monyd and wasied, is verye evident and manifest to be seene. The copies whereof byng by vs truly and faithfully extracted out of the very originals (byng yet extante) we haue here vnder inserted, as followeth.

Item. Certeine Instrumentes and Evidences of divers bookeinges recorde, declarynge the mariage of divers prietes to haue frande in tymes past,
showing both with ancient entome, &
þþ. A. 1104. ouer publicke lawes of this
Realme, 200. years, byng by us truly extracted out of the
originals (byng yet extante) we haue here vnder inserted,
as followeth.

Sicut presentes, & futuri quod ego Williel. de Blundville miles: xconcedid, & hac presenti charta mea confirmavi Stephano de Saxoniam Clerico, & Matilde uxori sue pro honorigijs & servitijs suis, & pro sexmaris aegentijs quas mihi dederunt in gerulum, & in aliam peciam terre arabilis, quæ iacet in campo de Newton in cultura, inter meliusq; in Galvach Sulyard, & coemeterium Ecclesiæ de Newton, inter terram Radulphi Malherbe, & terram Ioannis de Newton, & abutatur super regnum stratum versus orientem, & super terram que fuit Henrici Popiltel versus occidentem: Habet, & tenet de me & heredibus meis illis & heredibus suis aut subfusing, dare, legare, vendere vel assignare voluerint, in quoconque statu facientibus, liberè, quiete, in feodo, per petuum & hereditatem. Reddendo inde annuatim mihi & he: redib: meis duos agentios, & licet ad festu sancti Andreae denarij & ad nativitate sancti Iohannis baptista vnū denarij, Et ad scutagium domini regis, quando evenerit unum obolum tantum & non amplius pro omnibus terrenis, contactitudinibus, festis curijs, & exactiob: annubus seculatibus. Et ego Williel. de Blundwell, & heredes mei warrantibus, acquerendum & defendendum prædictam peciam terri prenominalis Stephano & Matilde uxori sue & heredibus suis, & cunctis aliis, dare, legare, vendere, vel assignare voluerint, contra omnes gentes tam Iudeos quam Chritianos in perpetuum per prefatum seruitium. Et ut hæc concessio & donationata sit & stabili in perpetuum, hanc cartam sigillo meo roborauit: His testibus Radulpho Malherbe, Willielmo de Reynestorpe, Ioanne de Neuion, Willielmo Canebot, Ioan. filio Simonis, Milone le Mach, Radulpho de Kineham, Willielm. de Campo, Thomæ Croce, Andr. Waleys, Willielm. Valant, & alijs.

This saþd piece of Evidence called a deede of Feofement of lands remaineth in the keeping of Thomas Blundwell of Newton Flotman in the Comtie of Northfolke Esquier at this present (videlicet) 22. die Novembris, Anno R. Eliz.

The priests kept
their wyues con-
trary to the
Archibishops
commandement.

¶ An. 25. Hen. 1.

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

Carta seofla-
ment. Williel. de
Blundville milit.
fact. Stephano
de Saxoniam
Clerico & Ma-
tilda uxori sue,
de terris in
Newton in
Com. Norff.

One peice of E-
vidence in the
custody of M.
Tho. Blundwell.