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CARDINAL POLE'S VISITATION, 1556.

AN ABSTRACT OF THAT PART RELATING TO THE
ARCHDEACONRY OF HUNTINGDON, TRANSLATED
(FROM STRYPE'S MEMORIALS OF THE REFORMATION)
BY THE REV. H. P. POLLARD.

Cardinal Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury, his metro-
political visitation of the diocese of Lincoln, with the
articles of visitation.

Things ascertained and found in the visitation of the
most reverend Lord Cardinal by the reverend father
John Bishop of Lincoln in his diocese of Lincoln in the
Feast of Easter in the year of the Lord one thousand
five hundred and fifty six, and accordingly done; as
follows :—

- * * * *
- Simony.** Robert Wakeley rector of Stoughton
parva¹ in the county of Huntingdon com-
pelled to vacate his benefice on account of simony.
- Penance
enjoined on
Curate.** Thomas Hulcocke,² curate of the church
of All Saints in Huntingdon, because he
administered the Eucharist to Simon
White, George Hasseley and others with-
out auricular confession, but with the
general confession in the English tongue as it was

1. Little Staughton is in the County and Archdeaconry of Bedford.
Robert Wakerley was Rector of Covington, Hunts., 1556-1557. (Ed.)

2. Thomas Hulcocke was Master of Huntingdon Hospital, 1557, and
Vicar of Hartford, Hunts., 1560-1563. He was buried at St. John's, Hunting-
don, 23. Sep. 1563. (Ed.)

accustomed to be done in the time of the schism, was first placed in gaol by us; afterwards also public penance was enjoined upon him, which he performed. And it was enjoined upon him that he should no longer minister in the Diocese of Lincoln. And thereupon he withdrew.

* * * *

Priests Married. Anthony Redshawe¹ of Leiton and Thomas Bell² of Mollesworthe in the county of Huntingdon duly and properly cited, have not appeared, so they stand excommunicated. Therefore we have decided to apply for a Writ *De excommunicato capiendo*.

They have eaten flesh in Lent. Henry Burnebie, John Marcie, Thomas Selbie, Christopher Kendal, William Maxey, Alice Selbie and Thomas Felde of Aconberce Weston, having been convicted and confessed that without a dispensation they ate flesh in Lent, were placed in prison. And afterwards they performed the penance enjoined on them, viz. by carrying faggots in the town of Huntingdon on the Saturday after Whit Sunday and on the morrow of that Saturday in the church of the parish of Aconbery Westonne.

Palme Sunday Ceremony Mocked. On the 27 day of the month of April in the year aforesaid Laurence Burnebie of Brampton was accused and convicted that during Mass on Palm Sunday when the vicar³ was opening the doors (valvas) of the church with the shaft of the cross—the said Laurence in a jesting manner said “What a sport have we towards. Will our vicar ronne at the

1. Anthony Redshaw was presumably Curate of Leighton; he was presented to the Rectory of Great Catworth in 1558 or 1559, but is mentioned in the First Fruits Composition Book as refusing to pay his First Fruits. (Ed.)

2. I have found no other reference to Thomas Bell, of Molesworth, but a Thomas Bell, Curate of Bythorn, died in 1557. (Ed.)

3. The Vicar of Brampton, in 1556, was John Dickinson, (1555-1582). (Ed.)

quintine with God Almightye?" Upon which he submitted himself, and public penance was enjoined upon him, which he performed as in the Acts.

* * * *

Child of the Vicar of Spaldwike. The 18th of April in the year of the Lord aforesaid it was enjoined upon the vicar of Spaldwike¹ that he should no longer carry about in his arms a child born of an illegal marriage in the time of the schism—to the scandal of others. And further a certain recantation was given him, which he read publicly in his church of Spaldwike.

Dilapidation of the Chancel. The fruits of the church of Spaldwike parcel of the prebend of Stowe were sequestered on account of the dilapidation and notable ruin of the chancel there, and sufficient restoration having been made the same sequestration was removed the last [day] of July.

Flight on account of religion. Richard Simpson, Richard Whittel and Henry Barrey of the town of S Ives were reported because they had fled on account of religion. They have humbly submitted themselves and have recanted the heresies which formerly they defended. Therefore [being about] to be absolved from the sentence of excommunication they were first placed in gaol, and have performed public penance carrying faggots.

Eucharist given to unconfessed. The vicar of Stewkeley magna² was accused that he had administered the Sacrament of the Eucharist to unconfessed in the feast of Easter last and had denied auricular confession to those who asked for it;—this having been proved he was placed

1. The Vicar of Spaldwick was probably Stephen Merfyn, who held the Living in 1534-5, and became Rector of Covington in 1557. (Ed.).

2. Robert Harrison was Vicar of Great Stukeley, 1561-1581. (Ed.).

in gaol and read a public recantation in the presence of his parishoners, as more fully appears in the Acts.

* * * *

Priest Faucet,¹ priest and schoolmaster at Saint Neots, is reported because he keeps a **has a wife;** certain Elizabeth Williams whom he had **he flees.** married in the time of the schism. Before, when cited, he fled. Nevertheless, Elizabeth, when cited, appeared and she was enjoined by the lord not to admit henceforth the said Faucet into her company, because a divorce had been made between them by the authority of the church.

Re-building altars. It was enjoined on the parishoners of Saint Neots that before the last day of this month they should rebuild all the altars which were in the same church before the schism; levying an imposition or tax on the parishoners. It was also enjoined on them that before next Easter was passed they should rebuild the rood (crucifixorium) with the figures necessary to it, making it in the future as it was before.

To rebuild crucifix. It was enjoined on the parishoners of Brampton that they should rebuild the rood (crucifixorium) and four stone crosses within the same parish before the next Feast of Christmas, at the common charges.

* * * *

Yaxley. Thomas Aschelin was reported because **Absence.** he was absent from his parish Church on Good Friday. He appeared on the sixth of May and submitted himself, and penance was enjoined upon him.

1. Faucet is probably a mistake for Facon. John Facon was appointed Vicar of St. Neots in 1542; and he was still there in 1556 (see Will of John Hatley, of Huntingdon). (Ed.).

Glatton. Henry Clerke was reported because he held the Sacrament of the Mass up to
Mockery. ridicule amongst his drinking companions. He appeared and confessed that he had sung those parts "And with thy spirit. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up unto the Lord. It is meet and right" etc., not however in derision of the Mass. Nevertheless he submitted himself to the correction of the lord. A form of recantation was given to him which he read the next Sunday in the time of Mass in his parish church.

Stangronde with its Chapel.
 Chancel ruinous—fruits sequestrated.

* * * *

William Smithe' took down a crucifix
Kimballtowne. without the consent of the parishioners.
Crucifix. And they have only the parish priest although there are more than one thousand parishioners. Mrs. Wilkinson has the impropriated church. It was ordered that Smithe be called.

George Kidd committed fornication with
Alcumbery. a certain woman there. On the sixth of
He committed of May the said Kidd appeared and confessed that he had known a certain
fornication. Elizabeth Powche and that he had engaged himself to her, but was unwilling to marry her because a certain Everard Burnebie had also known her; whom the lord ordered to appear in the next court and also the woman. And the said Kidd was warned to appear in the next [court] to receive penance.

* * * *

1. William Smithe may have been Vicar of Kimbolton; but the lists of Vicars at this period are defective, and I have not met with his name elsewhere. (Ed).

Abbotsley. Anthony Bonninge since the time of the
Candle schism has kept back his candle and did
withheld. not carry it in the accustomed manner
 in the day of the Purification of the
 Blessed Mary. He performed penance.

* * * *

Abbotsley. A certain Alexander Allisonne withheld
Candles from the vicar two candles due to the
withheld. vicar, saying these words in English
 "That a wiser vicar than yee wil not
 require them"

Paxton. A certain Robert Newman received the
Auricular Sacarment without auricular confess-
Confession. ion. He did penance.

Fenny Staunton. Chancel ruinous. The lord Bishop
 has sequestrated.

* * * *

Abbotsley. A certain Agnes Seale had a child and
Had knew not by whom. On the 6th of May
an illegitimate the woman appeared and confessed that
child. it was by a certain Robert Mydleton of
 Gransden parva, while she was in his
 service, etc., and has done penance in
 the accustomed manner.

Guncester John Slowe was reported because during
[Godmanchester.] two nights and one day he was in the
Suspicion. house of Thomas Vintener with a certain
 Ursula wife of the said Thomas, sus-
 piciously. He did penance.

Somersham. A certain Robert Aleyne absents himself
Absents himself. from his parish church, and when he
 comes does not behave himself well. He
 did penance.

Nicholas Philipp was reported because
Ramsey. he worked at his trade on Easter Day
He works on last. He did penance. And [the said
Easter Day. town] is a populous parish, and it has
 neither Rector nor Vicar. Mr. Richard
 Crumwell has the appropriated Church.

* * * *

Elizabeth Cuthbert has two children and
Aylton [Elton]. remains with Thomas Welforde. When
Has two she was called to reply to certain articles
children. on the 18th of June at Huntingdon it was
 enjoined that she should offer a wax taper
 by the hands of the Priest. She has done penance.

* * * *

(The parts omitted relate to other Archdeaconries.)

ARTICLES OF ENQUIRY IN THE AFORESAID VISITATION.

1. First as to the faith and unity of the faithful: are there any heretics or schismatics in the parishes, who maintain erroneous and heretical opinions, contrary to the Catholic Faith or the Sacraments of Christ in the Church, against the authority of our most holy Lord the Pope and his obedience?

2. Also are there those who, without the licence of our Lord the Pope or his Legate or the Bishop of the place, presume to preach publicly in the churches; or who by covert hints (adinuatis) instil erroneous doctrines into men's minds, or read, have, sell, carry about, write or in any way utter (propalant) heretical books?

3. Also are there in the parishes married priests not yet separated from their base consorts, or who though separated admit them or have access to them?

4. Also are there in the parishes any persons professing religion who contrary to their vows have contracted illegal marriage?

5. Also are all the altars in the churches rebuilt; the cups, books and other ornaments [restored]? Is the rood (crucifixorium) with images of the Crucified One and of Mary and John rebuilt; and is the image of the patron [saint] restored to its place?

6. Also are there faithful sidesmen (iconomi) in every parish, who every year render a faithful account of their office to the parishioners? Were any church goods taken away in the time of the schism by others than the Royal Commissioners?

7. Also are there in the parishes adulterers, fornicators, usurers, simonical persons, soothsayers, enchanters, drunkards, or those who impeach, despise or find fault with the ecclesiastical ceremonies?

8. Also are there in the parishes those who refuse to confess to their curates in Lent, or to receive the Holy Eucharist at Easter?

9. Also are there those who break the fasts ordered by the Church, who eat flesh in Lent or on the vigils of the Saints?

10. Also are the churches or chancels or rectory houses repaired [and] roofed?

11. Also are the Rectors resident, given to hospitality, and vigilant over their flocks?

12. Also are there churches vacant, and without priests? Are they sufficiently endowed to maintain the priests?