

CERTAIN DOUBTS WHEREIN THE FREEHOLDERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF DURHAM DESIRE TO BE RESOLVED BY HIS MAJESTIE'S JUDGES  
OF ASSISE OF THE SAME COUNTIE ACCORDING TO AN ORDER BY THEM  
MADE AT THE LAST ASSISIS HOLDEN AT DURHAM THE 11TH OF AUG. 1628.  
(*Hunter's MSS.*)

THE Deane and Chapter of Durham are seised in fee in right of their Church of diverse Mannors, Townes, Hamletts, Granges, and Tenements, within the Countie of Durham; all which are sett and valued in the General Book of Rates of the County. And the Townships which ordinarily consist of the Tenements usually demised by them to their tenants do without contradiction contribute to the Common Charge of the Country according to the Rates.

The Demaines of the Mannors, the Granges, and some of the Hamletts, are by the statutes of their House severally allotted to the Deane and Prebends, for their Lay Corps [Enumerating them].

All these the Deane and Prebends respectively, for the time being, have in their own Manuall occupations, or demise them to others at a rack rent, and themselves take leases of them from the Corporation determinable at Michaelmas after their deaths or removealles; upon which leases are reserved to the church the antient rents.

Now the Question growes whether the Deane and Prebends should not contribute for those lands, according to their Rates, to the Common Charges of the Country, as namely, to the charges of

His Majesties Purveyance, for which the Country payes the Composition of 100*l.* per annum.

The Bridges, 22 Hen. 8, cap. 5.

The Gaole, 14 Eliz. cap. 50.

The Marshalsey and King's Bench.

The Poore, 43 Eliz. cap. 2.

Mariners and Soldiers, 43 Eliz. cap. 3.

The House of Correction, 39 Eliz. cap. 4, and 7 Jacob. I. cap. 2.

Infected Persons of the plague, 1<sup>o</sup> Jacobi.

Common Armor of the Country.

Provision for Powder, Shott, and Match, for the Common Trayned Bands, and Watching of Beacons. By several Directions from his Majestye and the Lord of the Counsell.

Setting forth of Soldiers, and furnishing of them for his Majestie's Service, as of late there hath been two several times; and setting forth of Shipps for his Majestie's Service.

And all other such like Common Charge of the Country.

All which, except that for the poor, upon the statute 43 Eliz., are usually rated and taxed, and antiently have been levyed according to the said Book of Rates, which they of late years refuse to bear or con-

tribute unto; as also the charge of the poor in the several parishes, where their lay corps lyes, whereby the burthen of the said charge growes heavy to the other freeholders and layetie there.

And the like question is for the lands belonging to the Hospitalls of *Shereburn House* and *Gretham*, which have large possessions: of which the Hospitall of *Shereburn House* stands in the Book of Rates, and hath paid till of late that they not only refuse to contribute towards the said charges for their lands in their own occupations; but also will not suffer their tenants, which have leases of them for lives or years, to pay for the lands so demised.

And so likewise whether the Glebe lands of Parsonages ought not to contribute to all or some of the said Common Charges.

And whether Parks, whereof there is great profit made by the herbage, are not likewise to contribute, of which *Lumley Parke* stands in the Book of Rates, and hath paid till of late.

And whether Parkes that are now of late disparked, and some other lands in the countrye, which have not heretofore been taxed and rated, ought not likewise to pay, and by whom and in what sort they are to be taxed and rated.

And whether the Glebe Lands and Tythes of the Deaneries of *Darnton*, *Chester*, *Lanchester*, and *St. Andrew Auckland*, which came upon the Dissolution to the Croune, and have not yet been charged, and being now in Laymen's hands, ought to contribute to sessments in the country.

And lastly, whether the *Bishop's Demaines* which stands antiently taxed in the Book of Rates, and paid accordingly till of late years, and are for the most part letten forth upon the Rack to farmers, ought not still to contribute, and be lyable to the foresaid charges as formerly they were accustomed.

Wee know no differences in being subject to the rates above mentioned between the possessions of the clergy, either in their own hands, or of their tenants and the laitye. And Wee conceive that the Demesnes of Bishops, Deanes or Prebends, Parkes which yeild profit, and Glebe of Rectories, are subject to contribute to the Rates and Charges above mentioned, as well as the farmers and possessions of other laymen.

Ni: Hyde  
Tho: Richardson  
Richard Hutton  
James Whitlock  
Fr. Harvey  
Tho. Trevor

Jo. Walter  
John Denham  
Will. Johnes  
Geo. Coake  
H. Yelverton  
George Vernon.

I am of the same opinion,  
Humfray Davenport.  
27 July, 1630.