

## FIRST COMMISSION FOR NORFOLK JUSTICES OF THE PEACE;

## LETTER

FROM THE PRIVY-COUNCIL TO THE SHERIFF OF NORFOLK, ORDERING THE  
IMPRISONMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONS WHO HAD REFUSED  
TO ATTEND DIVINE WORSHIP; AND

## POLL FOR MEMBERS

TO BE RETURNED TO PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK, TAKEN AT  
THE CASTLE HILL, AUGUST 20, 1656;

COMMUNICATED BY

HUDSON GURNEY, ESQ., V.P., F.R.S., &c.

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*From the original "Bill" in the Tower.  
Temp. Ed. III.*

**Norff.**

Ces sont les Nouns q<sup>e</sup> sont esluz des plus suffisauns en le  
dit Counte p<sup>r</sup> faire la Garde de la Pees.

Le Evesq de Nortwys

Le Evesq de Ely

Le Counte Mareschal

Le Seign<sup>r</sup> Bardolfe

Le Seign<sup>r</sup> de Morle

Mouns<sup>r</sup> John<sup>o</sup> Haward le pere

Mouns<sup>r</sup> Auncil le Marescal

Mouns<sup>r</sup> John<sup>o</sup> de Hedersete

Mouns<sup>r</sup> John<sup>o</sup> de Kayli.

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*Copy of a Letter which occurs among Cole's Manuscripts in the British Museum, vol. xlvi. p. 313.*

“ To our loving Frend Mr. Gawdey, Shiref of the Countie of Norfolk.

“ After our harty Commendations : whereas

“ Wee have given Order to the Sheref of the County of Suffolke to deliver certaine Prisoners into your hands, who weare by our order commytted for ther obstinacy in refusing to come to the Churche in tyme of Sermons and Common Prayers: Thes shalbe to require you to receave them into your chardge, and fourthwith to commytt them to such of her Majesties Gaoles within that County, as shall seeme good unto the Lord Bishop of Norwiche, by whose direction they shalbe delivered unto you, ther to remayne in Cloase Prison untill suche tyme as you shalbe otherwise directed from us. And so we bid you hartely farewell.

“ From Whitehall, the xxij<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1578.

“ Your loving Freands,

“ W. BURGHLEY.                      E. LYNCOLN.                      T. SUSSEX.

“ F. KNOLLYS.                      R. LEYCESTER.

“ CHR. HATTON.    FRA. WALSYNGHAM.    THO. WYLSON.”

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*From the MSS. of Anthony Norris, Esq. to whom it was communicated by Robert Marsham, of Stratton, Esq.*

## MEMBERS RETURNED.

	Numbers.
Sir John Hobart . . . . .	2781
Sir William D'Oyley . . . . .	2525
Mr. Wilton . . . . .	2334
Sir Ralph Hare . . . . .	2318
Mr. Woodhouse . . . . .	2201
Sir Horatio Townsend . . . . .	2194
Mr. Buxton . . . . .	2190
Mr. Sotherton . . . . .	1856
Lord Fleetwood . . . . .	1788
Colonel Woods . . . . .	1692

## CANDIDATES WHO LOST THE ELECTION.

Mr. Carey . . . . .	1596
Mr. Smith . . . . .	1563
Mr. Denny . . . . .	1224
Colonel Gurdon . . . . .	1059
Mr. Fryer . . . . .	1006
Captain Garrett . . . . .	776
Captain Cock . . . . .	609

NOTE.—In this, which was Cromwell's third Parliament, Norfolk returned ten Members, and Norwich, Yarmouth, and Lynn, each, two. The same had been the case in the preceding Parliament, of 1654; and in neither had Thetford or Castle Rising been allowed to send any; but they had votes for the County. The privilege of returning members was, however, conferred upon them in the following Parliament, that of 1658, the first of Richard Cromwell; and the number of County-Members was then reduced to two.

TO R. G. P. MINTY, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR,

The following curious extract, transcribed by my friend, the Rev. F. Martin, from one of the Registers belonging to the parish of West Rudham, will require very little in the way of introduction.

“ A Memoriall of some, &c.

“ By John Robotham, incumbent An. Dom. 1626.

“ M<sup>d</sup>.

“ Peter Stanclif, Vicar of y<sup>s</sup> Church, was in y<sup>e</sup> daies Q. Mary enforced to put away his wife, who therupon married to another man ; but (when Q. Elizabeth came to the crown) he took her again from her second husband. He lieth buried near the north door of the Church, with this inscription yet legibl over the door—Peter Stanclif, Vicar of . . . .”

Both before and subsequently to the Norman Invasion, many of the parochial clergy were married men ; which might be proved by a variety of examples ; and the recurrence of prohibitory canons from time to time, leads us to the same point, for legislation would never have been thus elaborately applied to a mere nonentity. Among the articles of inquiry made in the diocese of Lincoln, in the year 1230, we find the following :

*In. vj.* “ Whether any beneficed Clerks in Holy Orders be married ? ”

*In. xx.* “ Whether any Rector or Vicar be the son of the last incumbent ? ”

Again in the Legatine Constitutions of Cardinal Otho, A. D. 1237, cap. xv.: "It has been made known to us that *many*, unmindful of their salvation, having contracted marriages in a clandestine way, retain both their preferment and their wives; that they get new benefices and are promoted to Holy Orders. Let such be altogether deprived of their benefices."

Once more, in the Constitutions of Walter Bishop of Durham, A. D. 1255: "Let no beneficed clerk in Holy Orders marry a wife; if he should do so, let him be deprived of his benefice, and suspended from the execution of his office, *unless in a case allowed by law.*"—(Wilkins' *Concilia*, tom. i. pp. 627, &c., 653, 705.)

I have selected these canons as being the latest that I could find. They prove incontestably that, *even after the middle of the thirteenth century*, many of our English clergy vindicated their natural rights as men, notwithstanding the prohibitions issued from time to time by their ecclesiastical superiors.

From A. D. 1255 to A. D. 1521, I can find nothing in the *Concilia* strictly bearing upon our subject; but in the year last mentioned King Henry the Eighth issued a proclamation against some of the priesthood who had presumed to marry "without a common consent of his Highness and his realme," "prohibiting them from administering the sacraments, and suspending them from office and benefice."—(*Concilia*, iii. p. 696.) This was the *very last* edict which I have met with against the marriage of the clergy. In the very same year, (*and in the following page,*) all the laws of compulsory celibacy were formally repealed by the Convocation. From that period till the demise of Henry VIII. in 1547, and throughout the reign of Edward VI. (an interval of about *thirty-two years*, altogether,) the English clergy were relieved from all restrictions against their marriage, and Archbishop Cranmer set them a good example by taking unto himself a wife.

These observations were necessary, in order to point out the historical value of the extract. It at once reminds us of

the short-lived triumph of Romanism during the five years of Queen Mary's reign, and of its final overthrow on the accession of Elizabeth in 1558.

Believe me,

My dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD HART.

*The following Copies from Original Manuscripts are sent to the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, trusting they will be found of sufficient interest to appear amongst its printed Papers.*

The first is a memorial for payment for services performed by a messenger, in the reign of Elizabeth, in riding with and delivering certain letters. The signature of Lord Buckhurst is attached.

The next is a summons to attend the *last* Herald's Visitation, signed by one of the officers of the Earl Marshal.

And the other is a letter relating to a well-known fact of history, and showing the manner of procedure, and the parties who acted in this county.

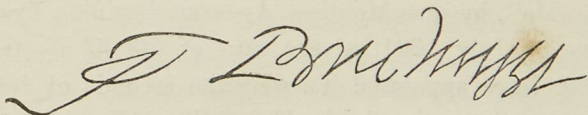
I. B.

Aylsham, June 3rd, 1846.

Mensis Septembris, Anno R.R<sup>inæ</sup>. Elizabethæ,  
nunc &c xliii<sup>to</sup> Annoque Dni. 1602.

John Sharpe, one of the Messengers of her Ma<sup>s</sup> Chamber humbly demandeth allowaunce for ryding in hast at the commandment of the right hono<sup>ble</sup> the Lo: high Thresoere of

England, from Sackevile house in Fleetstreet, London, w<sup>th</sup> lers for her Ma<sup>ys</sup> service: Videlicet, To the Lo: S<sup>t</sup> John of Bletzo in the county of Huntingdon and not fynding him there rode to Rippon parke in the same county and there delyvered unto him lers for her Ma<sup>ys</sup> service. And from hence to S<sup>r</sup> Sebastian \* Gawdy, knight, high Sheriffe of the County of Norfolk at his howse at West harling and there delyvered unto him like lers. And from hence to Mr. Roger Dallyson high Sheriffe of the County of Lincoln at his howse at Laughton and there delyvered unto him lyke lers. Wherefore the said John Sharpe humbly prayeth to be allowed for his travell, paynes, and charge in his service to be rated by the right wo<sup>ll</sup> Vincent Skynner Esq<sup>e</sup> and to be payd by one of the Tellers of her Ma<sup>es</sup> Receypt of the Excheq<sup>r</sup> at Westm<sup>r</sup>.



Mr. Tayl<sup>r</sup> I pray you paye four pounce in discharg hereof

VIN: SKYNNER.

Irro'l in pelle Exitus ix<sup>o</sup>  
die Octob<sup>s</sup>, 1602.

M<sup>rs</sup>. Ulfe,

You are psonally to appeare before S<sup>r</sup> Edward Bisshe, knight, Clarenceux King of Armes, on Munday the fffifth day of Septemb by eight of the clocke in the morning, at the signe of the Blacke-boy in Aylesham, & to bring with

\* Sir Basingbourne Gawdy was High Sheriff in 1601-2.

you such armes & crest as you beare, whereof you are not to faile as you will answer your contempt before the Lords Comissioners for the office of Earle Marshal of England. Dated the first of Septemb 1664.

WILL GAY.

These for Mrs. Elizabeth Ulfe,  
of Gresham.

Sir,

Having reed an Act of the late Parliamt entituled an Act for the raising of 70000<sup>li</sup> for the further supply of his Ma<sup>tie</sup>, by one Monthes Assessmt begining from the first day of July 1661, at the rate of 70000<sup>li</sup> by the monthe. Wee have appointed Tuesday the seconde of July next for a generall meeting in the Grand Jury Chamber at the Castle of Norwich by tenn of the clock in the forenoone. At wch tyme wee desire you to be p<sup>r</sup>sent to putt the said Act in execuson & in the interim remaine,

Sir,

Yo<sup>r</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>,

15<sup>th</sup> June, 1661.

FRA: BACON.

E. CHAMBLEYM.

Jo: BURMAN.

For our honoured freind  
Sir Thomas Rant Knt  
these.