

SUPPRESSION OF A LAY-PREACHER.—1703.

A Form of acknowledgment to be performed by William Earbury, Schoolmaster of Bovingdon in the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon, to be made in the Parish Church of Hemel Hemstead at the Visitation of the Rev. the Archdeacon of Huntingdon, to be held at Hemel Hemstead aforesaid, on Wednesday, 21 April, Anno Domini 1703:—

Whereas, I, William Earbury, being a meer Lay man in communion of the Church of England, did presume to teach or preach before a public Congregation in ye chaple of St. Leonard belonging to the Mother Ch. of Aston Clinton in the County of Bucks, contrary to the Canons of the Church and the Lawes of this Realm to the great offence and scandal of the Regular Clergy and all true Members of the Church of England, I doe therefore make this hearty acknowledgment of my said offence before my Ordinary, the Rev. the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and the Rev. his Official, and in the presence of the Clergy here assembled. Then I do hereby solemnly beg God and them to forgive me, and do further sincerely promise never to offend in like kind again, but to behave myself regularly and conformably as becomes a true member of the Church of England as by Law established. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this one and twentieth day of April, Anno Domini 1703.

Mem: This Form was audibly read and openly subscribed by the said Offender before the Court to the great satisfaction of ye Clergy and People.—[Lansdowne MSS. in Brit. Mus. No. 939. fol. 97. b. Bp. Kennett's Collection.]—*Communicated by Rev. H. Roundell.*