

REGULATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Monday, 22 January 1643/1644 [OS]

Whereas many complaints are made by the well-affected inhabitants of the associated counties of Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Hartford, Cambridge, Huntingdon, and Lincoln that the service of the Parliament is retarded, the enemy strengthened, the people's souls starved, and their minds diverted from any care of God's cause by their idle, ill-affected, and scandalous clergy of the University of Cambridge and the associated counties; and that many that would give evidence against such scandalous ministers are not able to travel to London, nor bear the charges of such a journey.

It is ordained by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, that the Earl of Manchester shall appoint one or more committees in every county, consisting of such as have been nominated deputy-lieutenants or committees by any former ordinance of Parliament in any of the said associated counties; every committee to consist of ten, whereof any five or more of them to sit in any place or places within any of the said associated counties where the said Earl shall appoint, with power to put in execution these instructions following, and, in pursuance thereof, to give assistance to the said committees.

First, they shall have power to call before them all provosts, masters, and fellows of colleges, all students and members of the University, all ministers in any county of the association, and all school-masters that are scandalous in their lives or ill-affected to the Parliament, or fomenters of this un-natural war, or that shall willfully refuse obedience to the ordinances of Parliament, or that have deserted their ordinary places of residence, not being employed in the service of the King and Parliament. And they shall have power to send for any witnesses and examine any complaint or testimony against them, upon oaths of such persons as shall and may be produced to give evidence against them and shall certify their names, with the charge and proofs against them, to the said Earl of Manchester; and he shall have power to eject such as he shall judge unfit for their places, and to sequester their estates, means, and revenues, and to dispose of them as he shall think fitting, and to place other fitting persons in their room, such as shall be approved of by the assembly of divines sitting at Westminster.

The Earl of Manchester, or the said committee or committees, shall have power. to administer the late covenant taken, and to be taken, of all the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland to all persons in any of the said associated counties and the Isle of Ely; upon such penalties as are, or shall be, assigned by the Parliament in this behalf. And be it ordained that the said Earl of Manchester shall have power to dispose of a fifth part of all such estates as they shall sequester for the benefit of the wives and children of any of the aforesaid persons.

The said committee or committees shall employ a clerk for the registering of all warrants, orders, summons, and ejections made by them. And that they choose some convenient place for the preserving of the writings of this committee.

That the said Earl of Manchester shall have power to examine and inhibit all such as do obstruct the reformation, now endeavoured, by the Parliament and assembly of divines. And be it further declared that all such as shall do anything in execution of this ordinance shall be kept indemnified by the authority and power of both Houses of Parliament.

And further be it ordained the Earl of Manchester shall have power to appoint convenient number, consisting of one or more out of every county, one out of the city of Norwich, and one out of the county and city of Lincoln, provided that three of these be deputy-lieutenants, to sit at Cambridge for the better ordering of all businesses of the association according to ordinances and orders of Parliament, and according to his commission granted by His Excellency, the Earl of Essex; and that the present committee for the association sitting at Cambridge shall cease when the Earl of Manchester shall have appointed another under his hand and seal.