

# ADVICE TO CHARLES I

## Oxford Clergy

10 February <sup>1644</sup>/<sub>1645</sub>

We think it fit that toleration be given (by suspending the penalties of all laws) both to the presbyterians and independents.

We think it fit that the bishop exercise no act of jurisdiction or ordination without the counsel of the presbyters, that is the dean and chapter, and, if it be thought fit, any other grave ministers of the diocese.

And that a very strict course be taken against all immoderate fees, unnecessary delays, and all other abuses in ecclesiastical courts.

And that the bishop make his residence in his diocese, except he be commanded to attend His Majesty.

And that his ordination shall be always in the solemnest and the publicest manner in the cathedral church.

And that very strict laws be made concerning the sufficiency and other qualifications of those men which shall be received into holy orders, and that trial be made of all such by the bishop and his presbyters.

For the frequency of preaching through the whole clergy (if that which the laws have formerly required be not thought sufficient), we shall be willing to submit to anything which the wisdom of authority shall think fit.

That bishops and cathedral and collegiate churches increase the vicars' maintenance out of the impropriations.

For pluralities for the time to come, we do not desire that any man shall be capable of two parsonages or vicarages with cure of souls if it seem good to authority so to order it.

For the inheritance of the church, as we cannot yield or consent that any part of it be alienated, so being very desirous to express our forwardness to contribute our utmost to the satisfying of the present necessities, we conceive that a very considerable sum to the value of £150.000 or £200.000 may be raised from the clergy by way of subsidy, to be paid in eight or ten years.

Concerning these or any other ecclesiastical matters, if there be any particulars which we may seem to have omitted, upon proposal we hope to give reasonable satisfaction.

If it be demanded whether a bishop may *salvo ordine* by his consent delegate such a power to his presbytery as that they shall have a negative voice to the exercise of all acts of jurisdiction and ordination, so that he shall be able to do nothing without them, we answer that we think he may in both.

If it be demanded whether in point of ordination a bishop may part with his negative to his presbyters, so that he may by the major part of them be forced to ordain whom he approves not, we think he cannot.

If it be demanded whether in point of jurisdiction a bishop may part with his negative to his presbyters, we answer that in causes of schism, of false doctrine, and other criminal causes we think he cannot. In causes testamentary, matrimonial, and decimal we think he may.

But in all this we earnestly desire that for the encouraging and preserving the study of the civil law in this Kingdom, the chancellors and officials may still remain as before and receive no diminutions in their just profits.