

# LEEDS 1594-1621

Edited by C. E. McGee

DISCLAIMER: The material below is offered in pre-publication form. It has not received editorial attention from REED's staff palaeographers and Latinists, nor have the notes and other editorial apparatus been checked for completeness and accuracy.

These records are published with the permission of the Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York, and The National Archives, Kew.

## Introduction

Leeds began as a small community around the parish church of St. Peter, the site of the present Leeds Minster, in Kirkgate on the north shore of the River Aire. In 1207, Maurice Paynel, also known as Maurice de Gant, founded a 'new town' in part of his manor of 'Loidis'. He established the town just to the west of the original settlement, "by a river crossing, with the broad market street of Briggate leading up to Headrow."<sup>1</sup> The charter of 1207 provided for a borough within the manor, a borough with thirty burgage plots on both sides of Briggate Street, governance led by a praetor, and burgesses who would be freemen of the borough. The praetor, later the bailiff, was charged with overseeing the economy of the borough, including the collection of fines and annual rents. The charter also acknowledged the importance to the local economy of the existing trade in corn, tallow, hides, and wool.<sup>2</sup>

The wool trade and cloth-making remained the foundation of the economy as Leeds grew steadily but slowly during the later medieval and early modern periods. When John Leland visited Leeds in the early 1540s, he described Leeds as a pretty market town, "having one parochie chirche, reasonably well buildid, and as large as Bradeford, but not so quik as it," and observed that "the toun stondith most by clothing."<sup>3</sup> Ninety years later a traveller from London wrote that the manor was "all enclosed and lieth in verie small parcels as some halfe an acre, some 2 acres some more, manie less havinge houses scattered frequentlie and throughout the whole Lordshipp, by reason of their great Clothinge on which trade the whole Towne, cheefely, and in a manor wholie dependeth."<sup>4</sup>

One of the chief beneficiaries of the cloth trade was John Harrison (1579-1656), who was celebrated in his own time and has often been since, as 'the benefactor of Leeds'.<sup>6</sup> Some of the civic projects to which he devoted himself—such as building a Moot Hall (1615-1618), petitioning to make Leeds a staple town for the marketing of wool (1619), campaigning for a royal charter of incorporation (1626), and joining with others to purchase the manor of Leeds from the Corporation of the city of London (1629)—obviously benefitted his business interests. Harrison was exceptional, however, in the generosity with which he used the wealth he acquired as a cloth merchant to fund civic improvements. "Having purchased the estates of

the Rockleys and Falkinghams to the north of the town, he built there, between 1620 and 1640, a new street, known as New Briggate (whose rents he assigned to the use of the poor), the beautiful church of St John the Evangelist, a row of almshouses to accommodate forty poor persons, and a new building on an attractive site for the free grammar school."<sup>5</sup> Harrison not only built St. John's, which remains one of the finest examples of an elaborately carved rood screen and pews of the period, but also provided ongoing support with the income from a house, glebe lands, and an annual stipend of £80 for the uses of church.

John Harrison, wealthy cloth merchant and influential civic leader, was also the plaintiff in the first of the Star Chamber cases with evidence of performance activity. Harrison alleged that in 1616, a group of his neighbours devised two defamatory pieces that they published, read, and sang, with, he claims, "great Iollity pastyme and mirth" at his expense. The allusive character of the verses and the lack of detailed information about Harrison's life at this time make it difficult to know precisely why he became the object of their criticism and ridicule as "of knaves the very knave." Perhaps, as Harrison affirmed in his bill of complaint, simply the envy that some of his neighbours felt because of his "prosperitie and good estate" motivated the attack. Or perhaps they objected to the use of revenue from the toll on corn, revenue collected for charitable purposes, for the building of the new Moot Hall in 1615 or so. In 1611, Harrison, as deputy bailiff of Leeds, had oversight of the collection and distribution of the toll on corn. As a result, he might well have been instrumental in deciding to use money collected for the poor to build the Moot Hall.

Religion may have been the more important factor prompting the antagonism toward Harrison. Puritanism in Leeds was a powerful social force that set leading citizens at odds with one another. When Robert Cooke, vicar of Leeds died in 1615, the survivors of the group that had purchased the advowson in 1588 hoped to see Richard Middleton, chaplain to Prince Charles, become vicar. Another group of influential gentry and inhabitants appealed directly to the archbishop to appoint Alexander Cooke, Robert Cooke's brother and his curate since 1604. The disagreement led to a case in the Court of Chancery in Westminster, which decided in favour of Cooke.<sup>7</sup> A scholar, a forceful preacher, and a trenchant critic of Roman Catholicism,<sup>8</sup> Cooke was a formidable Puritan advocate for reform. In *Cooke vs. Metcalfe and Jackson* (1621), the second Star Chamber case below, the plaintiffs allege that the vicar, violently trying to suppress a rushbearing "... in furious and vnseemelie sort tooke a halbert in his hand shaking it and saying in the presence of diuerse people there present: I wish I had Harrison and Metcalf heare (meaning your said Subiect Iohn Metcalf and the said Iohn Harrison aboue named) that I might drive the streete of Twentie of them." Harrison was deeply religious, but loyal to the established church. Judging from Metcalfe's complaints about Cooke—the vicar's alleged failure to perform traditional funeral rites, his objections to Christmas and Good Friday, his refusal to give communion to people kneeling, his proscription of the use of wedding rings, his disparagement of the confirmation of children as mere "babbles and rattles," and his use of sermons to make personal attacks on those not of his persuasion—Metcalf also considered Cooke too extreme in his religious principles and practice to support.

The allegedly libellous song ridiculing and criticizing John Metcalfe suggests another factor influencing the antagonism between Cooke and Metcalfe. Besides mocking Metcalfe by portraying him as the old town bull (punning on 'calf' in 'Metcalfe'), the songs draw attention to Metcalfe's misappropriation of public funds. When the new Moot Hall was built, funds collected for relief of the poor were used for the project on the condition that the revenues from the use of the building would be used for charitable purposes. Metcalfe was also responsible for collecting and distributing the 'tolldish', the toll on corn brought to Leeds' market for sale. The revenue from the toll was to be divided equally: a third for the bailiff's own uses, a third for repair of highways, and a third for charitable purposes. In July 1619, a commission investigated the administration of these public charities, and an inquisition in 1620 found that Metcalfe had retained about 25% of the income from the Moot Hall for himself. The enquiry also discovered that he had passed on to the bailiff, Sir John Savile, his due one-third of the tolldish, but that Metcalfe had kept the two-thirds remaining for himself, and he had done so for the preceding three years.<sup>9</sup> Given Alexander Cooke's emphasis as vicar on charitable causes and care of people in need, it is not surprising that Metcalfe's misappropriation of public funds fuelled the antagonism between them.

Presumably performance activity in Leeds also included the music of the town waits, but we have no civic records of the waits. The waits of Leeds, however, travelled in the region and received rewards for performing at a number of households.

<sup>1</sup>David Hey, *Yorkshire from AD 1000* (London and New York: Longman, 1986), p. 43.

<sup>2</sup>James Wardell, *The Municipal History of the Borough of Leeds* (London: Longman, Brown, and Co., 1846), App. II, provides a text of the charter.

<sup>3</sup>Quoted by Hey, 121.

<sup>4</sup>M.W. Beresford, "Leeds in 1628: a 'Ridinge Observation' from the City of London," *Northern History*, X (1975): 126-40.

<sup>5</sup>Kirby, J. W. "Harrison, John," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. 23 September 2004.

<sup>6</sup>See John Taylor, *Part of this Summers Travels* (London: J.O[kes], 1639), pp. 22-24, and J.W. Kirby's *ONDB* entry above.

<sup>7</sup>See Wardell, p. 17 for the list of those advocating for Alexander Cooke. Although John Harrison is not included among the plaintiffs in this case, John Metcalfe, later Cooke's antagonist in Star Chamber, did support the appointment of Alexander Cooke as vicar of Leeds. See also William Joseph Sheils, "Cooke, Alexander (*bap.* 1564, *d.* 1632)," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004, for more information on the controversial appointment of Cooke.

<sup>8</sup>See his *Pope Joan: A Dialogue between a Protestant and a Papist* (London: [R. Field], 1610) and *Work for a Mass-priest* (London: J. Jones, 1617).

<sup>9</sup>We are indebted in this section to Wardell, pp. 17-19.

## Records

1594  
f 30 (22 July)

BORTHWICK INSTITUTE, YORK

Ainslie

Die Lune *videlicet* xxij<sup>o</sup> die Iulij 1594 loco *consistoriali* infra ecclesiam *Cathedralem* Eboraci inter horas nonam et xj<sup>am</sup> ante meridiem eiusdem diei coram venerabili viro Mr Iohanne Gibson legum doctore & in presentia mei Egidij ffe<..>y notarij publici

\*Leedes

...

Contra Davidem morgon Richardum Pettie  
et Thomam Cassen de hillhousekinke  
for kepinge coompanie in there howsies  
or pypinge in tyme of prayer

quo die *dominus* remisit hanc coun' quo ad Pettie examinace et determinacione mr Cooke<sup>1</sup> vicar de Leedes<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>mr Cooke] *Robert Cooke, vicar of Leeds 18 December 1590 to 1 January 1615*

<sup>2</sup>quo ... Leedes] *located right of the presentment*

1616  
Harrison v Key et al

TNA: STAC 8/167/27

mb 2  
*Bill of Complaint of John Harrison*

To the Kings most excellent *Maiestie*/

In most humble wise Complayninge sheweth and informeth *you Maiestie your* Loyall faithfull and obedient Subiect Iohn Harrison of Leeds in *your Maiesties* Countie of yorke gent, That whereas *your* said Subiect hath from his infancy lived in good name and forme and good opinion of his neighbours and others, And hath bene heretofore elected sworne And is Cheefe Constable of the Wapontake of Skeracke<sup>1</sup> in the said Countie of yorke Soe it is that <sup>^</sup>one William Key thelder, William Key the yonger Alexander Smith, Iohn Watson, Peter Iackson, William Boyes, Edward Hawmon, William Morley Iohn Rayner, Richard Sikes, George Hargrave, Christopher Smith, William Pulleyn, Richard Casson, Lawrence Walker <sup>^</sup>Alexander Cooke Rafe Cook Mansfell Hassell Thomas Woodroose Abraham Ienkenson Elizabeth Sykes *William Smyth* and divers other persons vnknowne, whose names *your* Subiect humblie praieth may bee incerted into his Bill and make parties herevnto soe soone as they shalbee discovered having causlesly Conceived great hatred and malice against *your* said Subiecte, and much envyinge his *your* subiectes prosperitie and good estate have at divers and sundrie tymes within these fower yeares last past, Confederated and combyned themselves

together and wickedly abused their wittes and Conferred and Consulted together to Contrive and publish scandalous and infamour Libells against *your* said subiect, And although they well knowe the penaltye and danger of *your* highnes Lawes against libells, yet hoping that their maliciousnes and wickednes in Contrivinge and and framinge the same should not bee knowen but be kept secrett soe that it Could not be knowen whoe were the Authors or Contrivers of such scandalous libells, They the said William Key thelder, William Key the yonger Alexander Smith, Iohn Watson, Peter Iackson, William Boyes, Edward Hawmon, William Morley, Iohn Rayner, Richard Sikes, George Hargrave, Christopher Smith, William Pulleyn, Richard Casson, Lawrence Walker, <sup>^</sup>Alexander Cooke, Rafe Cooke Maunsfell Hassell Thomas Woodroose Abraham Ienkinson Elizabeth Sykes *William Smith* and the said other vnknowne persons by the Confederacie aforesaid of purpose And intent to slander *your* said subiect and deprive him of his good name, and to spread and disperse false rumours, and to sowe sedition, discord and debate amongst *your* highnes subiectes, and of a malicious mynd against *your* said Subiect did vnlawfull falsely maliciously and secretly sithence the first of Maye in the fowerteenth yeare<sup>2</sup> of *your* highnes Raigne frame Contrive and devise <sup>^two</sup> false slaunders lewd & seditious libells against *your* said Subiect and divers others in forme following:

Who ever heard of any soe madd,  
To stabbe themselves and laugh and bee glad,  
And him extoll was alwayes false lad,  
What witt is in this good neighbour

what nowe becomes of all idle talke,  
In Alehowse and taverne and as yow doe walke,  
where some payed money and some did but Chalke;<sup>3</sup>  
What wise mirth is this good neighbours,

yow rage and malice him that did saye,  
The Parish had right and have a daie,  
Would not this yeild matter to make a stage playe;  
ffor a ripe witt good neighbour,

some looke bigg as though eaten Bull beefe,  
some made honest bawde, whore and theefe,  
And Tom Brooke was feasted even of the Cheefe,  
what wit was in this good neighbours,

Some left their labour and did resorte  
to thalehowse and Taverne to heare Reporte,  
and ioyed in shadowes yet wanted the forte,  
What witt was in this good neighbours,

yow sent Robin Benson<sup>4</sup> to London in poste,  
and for his newes yow were at great Cost,

But what doe yow nowe when all is lost,  
but see your owne follie good neighbours,

The end and begynninge all is but one,  
Rashnes begunne it by Councell of Iohn,  
ffye of suche Councell that after breeds mone;  
And makes men buy witt good neighbours,

Thoughe nowe somethinge late take Councell by mee,  
love vertue, hate vice, lett all lovers bee,  
whats past it's past, lett's all nowe agree,  
And love one another good neighbours,

Love them that's worthie withall your harte,  
ffor knaves and dunces nere take their parte  
doctor dodepoll<sup>5</sup> is worse then Bachelours of Arte;  
who knoweth not this good neighbours,

Leave enterteyninge knaves at *your* dore,  
gallopp not to meete whome yow nere sawe before,  
As of late yow did score after score,  
But Counted more fooles good neighbours,

But in Conclusion since things doe thus fadge,<sup>6</sup>  
And an Ape an Ape thoughe weare a guilt badge,  
Hange vpp all whores & Grace Beatrice and Madge,  
And all drunken knaves good neighbours,

Had wee bene thanckfull to God above,  
And to thold knight whome wee did prove,  
did vs protect and defend with love,  
Then had wee bene wise good neighbours,

Have wee not ha<sup>r</sup>d old Cooke<sup>7</sup> to preach,  
None worse then vnthankfull *which* maie vs teach  
to requite good turnes if it bee in our reache,  
then whose fooles and knaves good neighbors,

did not many preachers both learned and wise,  
oft resorte hither and devise,  
to make vs love and not to despise,  
Our Pastor and teacher good neighbours.

But since nowe yow are all overrunne,  
Ile leave yow to the Vicar of Hartburne,  
And goe to Poules and there take a turne,

meane tyme bee more wise good neighbours,

Thoughe nowe yow rage it is noe wonder,  
The devill would have yow not parte a sunder,  
But flye his baites hee is a Counfounder,  
And heate but *your* bloud good neighbours;

And the other of the saide scandalous Libells as followeth <sup>^</sup> in these wordes

Hee that doth brave and slaunder men, and vrgeth them with spight,  
To Collour to advantage give,<sup>8</sup> but dare not with them fight,

Hee that buyes land and perchance gettes by deceit and shiftes  
And vseth Cunnige not to paye, with naught but trickes and drifte,

Hee that hath vphoulden bene and graced by his better,  
doth falsifie Committed trust, and still remaynes his detter,

Hee that will sclander those that's good and yet keepe a Mynion,  
Maye well bee sayed to have small grace and lesser of religion

Hee that still walkes and prowdly sittes that all may see and eye him,  
And yet proves hollowe in the touch, and true to none that tries him:

Hee that old matters takes in hand, and saieth hee will make an end,  
But leaves them to the lawe at length makes worse, but naught doth mend:

Hee that canne Cardinall Confute, and Bellarmyne<sup>9</sup> himself,  
And yet takes Councell of a knave, and of a Popish elf

Hee that speakes one thinge with his tongue, and yet doth thinke another,  
Hee is a knave of knaves I dare affirme, althoughe hee were my Brother:

hee that hath gott some store of land would governe all a towne,  
And yet's ill bred and Manners wantes a knave a verie Clowne:

Hee that vppon the riche doth frowne, but spighteth them that's poore,  
And hates them both and loveth none, but flatterie and a whore,

Hee that is riche and is supposed by honest witt and paynes,  
And for requitall renders hate, and losse in steed of gaynes:

Hee that a danger to avoide, by meanes doth seeke releife,  
But kyndly vsed vnthankfull proves, and still deteynes his greife,

Hee that abuses men of worth, of knowledge and of arte,

And for to please a Butchers wife, doth terme a Coach a Carte:

Hee that with all these Canne bee Chardged, noe further shall hee have,  
But while hee lives shalbee esteemed of knaves the very knave:

And the said William Key the elder, William Key the yonger Alexander Smith Iohn Watson, Peter Iackson, William Boyes, Edward Hawmon, William Morley, Iohn Rayner, Richard Sykes, George Hargrave, Christopher Smith, William Pulleyn, Richard Casson, Lawrence Walker <sup>^</sup>Alexander Cooke, Rafe Cooke Manssell Hassell Thomas Woodroose Abraham Ienkinson Elizabeth Sykes *William Smyth* and others the said Confederates both knowne and vnknowne havinge soe Contrived and devised the said scandalous and infamous Libells did first secretly Cast abroad divers Coppies thereof whereby the same became published to divers persons without any name therevnto, but afterwardes they became soe impudent and audatious not fearing the danger and punishment for suche enormous offences as that they and every of them by the Confederacie aforesaid, have oftentimes since the makinge and Contrivinge thereof in divers Companies and places within the said Towne and parish of Leeds, and in Tavernes Alehouses and other places of resorte at divers tymes published, divulged, songe, repeated, and said <sup>^</sup>the said infamous and slaunderous libells, And also have laughed, reioyced, and made great Iollity pastyme and mirth thereat, And have expounded the same and the meanyng thereof, what parte thereof Concerned your subiect, and what parte Concerned others your subiectes neighbours in every particuler thereof, The *which* Combynacons <sup>^</sup>& Confederacyes and the said vnlawfull and malicious writinge makinge devisinge and publishinge of the said slanderous and infamous Libells aforesaid and all other the matters misdemeanors and offences hereby Complayned of were done and Committed since your Maiesties last generall and free pardon and are not onely against many good and wholesome lawes and statutes of this your Realme, and tend to the breach of Christian Charitie and are verie seditious and Consequently tend to the violation and disturbance of your Maiesties and good government established *which* ought to be amongst Christians ~~our~~ are dangerous in example to encourage other lewd persons of like evill disposicion to Committ the like offences if these should escape vnpunished./ In tender Consideracion whereof maye it please your most Excellent Maiestie to graunt vnto your subiect your gracious proces of Subpena to be directed to the said William Key the elder, William Key the younger, Alexander Smith, Iohn Watson, Peter Iackson, William Boyes, Edward Hawmon, William Morley, Iohn Rayner, Richard Sykes, George Hargrove, Christopher Smith, William Pulleyn, Richard Casson, Lawrence Walker <sup>^</sup>Alexander Cooke Rafe Cook Manssell Hassell Thomas ~~Iack~~ Woodroose Abraham Ienkinson Elizabeth Sykes *William Smyth* and the rest of the said Confederates vnknowne when they shalbee discovered Commaundinge them and everie of them at a Certayne daye and vnder a Certayne payne herein to be lymitted, personally to appeare before your Maiesty and the Lordes and others of your Maiesties moste honorable and privie Councill in your highe and honorable Courte of Starchamber at *Westminster*, then and there to answer the premisses, And to stand to such further <sup>^</sup>order and direccion herein as to the Iustice of the said honorable Court shalbee thought meete, And your subiect



shall (as in dutie bound) daily pray for your Maiestie in all health and happines longe to raigne over vs./

*Memorandum* the names of Alexander Cooke, Rafe Cooke Maunsfell Hassell Thomas Woodroose Abraham Ienkenson Elizabeth Sykes & William Smyth were inserted into this Bill *par* order Cur 22<sup>o</sup> die Novembr. Anno. xix<sup>o</sup> Iaco Regis./<sup>10</sup>

Thomas Procter

<sup>1</sup>Wapontake of Skeracke] *the wapentake of Skyrack is one of the administrative subdivisions of Yorkshire; Leeds is located near the southwest boundary of the wapentake, which occupies the central part of the West Riding.*

<sup>2</sup> the fowerteenth yeare] *14 James I extended from 24 March 1616 to 23 March 1617; hence, 1 May 1616*

<sup>3</sup> Chalke] *kept a tally of indebtedness at an alehouse, something formerly recorded with chalk*

<sup>4</sup> Robin Benson] *one of the principal burgesses of Leeds and an agent of the borough in the effort to obtain a royal charter of incorporation*

<sup>5</sup> doctor dodepoll] *a 'dodypoll' was a blockhead, fool, or 'dotty head'; the line may allude to the character of the same name in the anonymous play The Wisdom of Doctor Dodypoll (London: T. Creede, 1600).*

<sup>6</sup> fadge] *turn out, or unfold as they have*

<sup>7</sup> old Cooke] *Robert Cooke, vicar of Leeds 1590-1615*

<sup>8</sup> To Collour to advantage give] *to give colour to, with the connotation to disguise, misrepresent, cover up*

<sup>9</sup> Bellarmyne] *Robert Cardinal Bellarmine, a Jesuit scholar most famous for warning Galileo against the ideas of Copernicus with respect to the cosmos*

<sup>10</sup> 22<sup>o</sup> die Novembr. Anno. xix<sup>o</sup> Iaco Regis./] *22 November 1621*

## **mb 1**

### ***Demurrer of William Key***

Sab{ba}ti quinto Maij Anno 19<sup>o</sup> Iacobis Regis/<sup>1</sup>

Harker

The demurrer of William Kaye one of the defendantes to the bill of Complainte of Iohn Harrison Complainant

The said defendant saith that albeit he this defendant should Confesse all and singuler the matters and offenses in the said bill of Complaint declared against him this defendante to be true in such manner and forme as the same are therein expressed as he doth not. that yet neuertheles (as he this ~~deponent~~ defendant verylie thinketeh) this high and honorable Court will in noe sort hold plea therof, for that the saide supposed Crimes and Offenses are eyther noe Crimes or Offenses at all, or ells at the least such small and petty Offenses and of that nature and quality as that they nor any of them are fitting or worthy the examinacion and censure of this highe and honorable Court./ And perticularly for and Concerninge the said Libells

therin mentioned that the same doe conteyne noe matter of Offense or if they doe the same is and are such as carry with them noe scandall att all  $\text{\textcircled{e}}$  nor can minister occasion of any sedition tumult disorder or other inconvenience as in the bill is pretended and if anie offense or scandall be thence to be collected the same may without the troble of this Court by an ordinary course of Iustice receive sufficient punishment of satisfaction answerable therto by way of *Accion* or suite att the Comon lawe or in the eccleasticall Court, and therefore he this defendant as well for the Causes aboue alledged as for sundry others the defectes and imperfections in the said bill of Complaint manifestly appearinge doth demure in lawe vpon the said Bill of Complaint, And demaundeth the Iudgment of this honorable Court whether he this defendant shall or ought by the rules and Orders of the same be Compelled to giue answeere vnto the said Bill of Complaint or anie the matters therein Conteyned And most humbly prayeth to be dismissed out of this Honorable Court with his Costes and Charges therin wrongfully Sustayned./

Cressy  
1621.

<sup>1</sup> Sab{ba}ti ... Regis/] Sunday 5 May 1621

**1621**  
**Metcalfe and Jackson v Cooke et al**

TNA: STAC8/215/6

**mb 3**  
***Bill of Complaint of John Metcalfe and Thomas Jackson***

To the Kings most excellent *Maiestie*

<.....> humblie compleyneth sheweth and informeth vnto *your* most excellent *Maiestie* your faithfull true and obedient subiects Iohn Metcalf and Thomas Iackson of the parish of Leedes in the behalf of themselues and of diuerse and most of the parishioners of the said parish of Leedes That whereas the publike <.....> and prosperous estate of the Church and Commonwealth of this Realme of England ordayned and established by the Lawes and Statutes thereof properlie and onlie appertaynith to *your Maiesties* most sacred and Royall power, governement and proteccion And whereas all malitious, factious, contentious, seditious, <...> rbulent disturbances thereof by open or publike *Accions* detraccions, depravacions, schandall, or contempte of the same lawes and statutes And all publike instigations of the people in the Churches of Market towns or other places of Common Assemblies to the violacion disobedience or contempte <of> the said Lawes statutes ordinances of *your Maiesties* royall power therein are apparently periurious and daungerous to the same publike peace and prosperous estate and governement of the said Church and Comonwealth And whereas noe manner of faction, contencion,

or sedition is so periurious and dangerous to the peace and prosperous estate of the Realme as those that are incited provoked and persuede by coullor of religion devocion and pietie, and by coullor of a religious and sacred zeale to advance some imaginarie gouvernement, and to repress, defame, despoyle, abandon and abolish the present gouvernement of the Church of England, and the Lawes and statutes ordayned and established for the preseruacion and confirmacion of the same Lawes and government as prophane and superstitious And whereas your Maiesties Lawes and statutes of this your Realme of England are directly against all fframers, Makers, Contrivers, and publishers of false, schandalous and libellous Writinge tending to the disgrace, blemish and disparagement of anie your highnes subiectes within this your Realme of England in his name, person, credit or reputacion, the offenders in that nature and kinde havinge sundry decrees in your highnes court of Starchamber received very severe exemplarie and condigne punishment (as by the seuerall decrees remayning of Recorde in the said Court appeareth.) Yet soe it is if it maie please your most excellent Maiestie That one Allexander Cooke heretofore parson and Richlie beneficed in a Market towne called Lowth<sup>1</sup> in your Maiesties countie of Lincolne, and growing about ten or eleaven yeares since to be a perverse factious sectary and Puritan, and being therefore convented before the then Buishopp<sup>2</sup> of the same diocesse and examined touching conformitie to the gouvernement and discipline of the Church, and being vppon his convention found perverse and obstinate in diuerse factious and peruerse opinions Was therevppon by iust and lawfull sentence thence deprived of his benefice at Lowth aforesaid and silenced And the said Allexander Cooke standing so deprived and silenced without conformitie the same notwithstanding did in or about six yeares nowe last past (the Viccaridge of the said parish of Leedes becomming void by the death of one Robert Cooke<sup>3</sup> a worthie Preacher brother of the said Alexander Cooke then Incumbent there) most vnlawfullie and sinisterlie and by the vnlawfull practizes and procurementes of one Ralphe Cooke his brother, ffrancis Ieffery, William Key the elder, William Key the younger, Bryan Beeston, Iohn Sykes, Richard Sykes, Martin Lecockes, William Mawson, William Hutton, Iohn Ma<sup>1</sup>son, George Hargreave, William Pullyn, <sup>William Thompson, Mansfeilde Hasell</sup> and others of his factious, obstinate and perverse opinions and sect parishioners of the same parrish and contrarie to the good liking and Councill of your subiectes and diuerse other the greater part by manie of the parreshioners of the saide parrish of Leedes Whoe in respect of his non conformitie to the Church and his said other perverse and precise opinions, and therefore as much as in them lay altogeather oppugne, and contradict the same procure himself without Lawfull title to be presented, and therevppon to be instituted Viccar<sup>4</sup> of the said Viccaridge of Leedes And the said Allexander Cooke, and his precise, factious and perverse Confederates aboue named conceiving an inward mallice and settled resolucion of revenge against your said subiectes in respect of their dislike and backwardnes as touching the presentacion and promotion of him the said Allexander Cooke to the said Viccaridge did in execution and accomplishment thereof at divers times in theis said six yeares last past since hee the saide Allexander Cooke was for the said Viccaridge presented instituted and inducted most malitiouslye practize combine and confederate together among themselues to make, frame, devise and write divers schandalous, infamous and

libellous writings against your said subiectes and others of the said parrish of Leedes that were not of such their sect, nor helde nor maintaynede their perverse and factious opinions, thereby not onlie to disgrace, depraue to aduce and vilifie your said subiectes in their names credittes and reputacions, but also to schandalize thereby the present gouernement and conformitie of the Church and Religion established by your Maiesties ecclesiasticall and other lawes of this kingdome, and to extoll, advance, and magnifie themselues in their owne Puritanisme and precise opinions and fantasticke humours. According to which their said malicious and vnlawfull settled Resolution by the combinacion and confederacie aforesaid the said Allexander Cooke, and his said Confederates William Key the elder, William Key the younger, Ralphe Cooke, ffrauncis Ieffery, Brian Beeston, Iohn Sykes, Richard Sykes Elizabeth his wife, Martin Laycocke, William Mawson, William Hutton, Iohn Watson George Hargreave, William Pullen, Iosua Hill Clark <sup>William Thompson, Mansfeilde Hassall</sup> and others their Confederates to your subiectes as yet vnknowne, whose names your subiectes humblie praie maie be incerted into this bill when they shalbe discouered did within the time aforesaid, and since such his the said Cookes institution and induction to the said Viccaridge of purpose most maliciously out of their inveterate hatred devise, make, frame, write and divulge diuers schandalous infamous scurrilous and slanderous Libells in writing against and to the depravacion and schandall of your said subiectes and others of the said parrishioners of Leedes not of their sect and faction Whereof and of them principallie aymed against and to the schandall of your said subiect Iohn Metcalf by the names of Bull and Calfe, but touching others also followeth in this wordes *videlicet*

Old Cerberus with poysoned dart<sup>5</sup>  
a doe to shoote belowe her heart  
As hee was wont with euery Trull,<sup>6</sup>  
In hope to gett a newe Towe bull,  
Assayed in vayne to run the ringe,<sup>7</sup>  
that nere was hit but by a kinge,  
That word recall I must anon,  
or els do wrong to civill Iohn,  
whose skill to shoote that harmelesse deere,  
was such that downe shee fell for feare,  
And then the Woodman made a Squier,  
a creature worse ~~then~~ <sup>nere</sup> came in hell fier.  
This bellowing bull hath all his life,  
sought to defloure both Maid and wife,  
His owne maie sigh and sobb in bedd,  
Hee whoaring in annother stead,  
The countrie ring of his vile deedes  
And for his synnes my heart yet bleedes  
This Calf of late occasion tooke;  
to quarrell with our learned Cooke,  
A man whose life and learninge doth appeare,  
in towne and Cittie both to the most pure,

Though impure tongues against him Raile,  
 in wicked songe but all in vaine, Iehovah<sup>8</sup> keepes  
 him from them wakeing and a slepe,  
 his manners vile and beastlie life,  
 his sonne detestes though want of wife,  
 force him somtimes against the stream  
 to travell vpp to Hillary Terme,<sup>9</sup>  
 Hee is cheifest of all our stapling Crewe,<sup>10</sup>  
 or sect I think the devill did spewe,  
 Amongst them all I doe knowe none,  
 but cunning, cheating knaves each one,  
 Whoe make a prey on Clothiers poore;  
 Gehenna<sup>11</sup> gapes for them therefore,  
 with brazen face they met our knight  
 when to this towne hee came to right,  
 what had bin wronge and wee vndone,  
 by meanes of him and annother Iohn,  
 All holie men doth knowe this beast,  
 of heaven and hell to make a least,  
 This towne this cruell Tiger seekes,  
 to ouerthrowe by cursed trickes,  
 high waies the poore and all must bleede,  
 on them by Tolldish<sup>12</sup> hee will feede,  
 The backehouse hee hath raised<sup>13</sup> to hell,  
 His soule to the devill I thinke hee will sell.  
 The knave is brought from beggars state,  
 to equalize the best in the gate,  
 yet doth oppresse his Neighbours poore,  
 by setting Stands before their dore,  
 ffor *amerciamentes*<sup>14</sup> hee spares not one  
 Old Henry is next when hee is gon;

And divers other such like infamous Libells, *which* scurrilous, schandalous and  
 infamous Libells aboue, and diuerse other such like being so maliciously made,  
 framed contrived & written by the said Allexander Cooke, and the said Confederates  
 aboue named, and other the said vnknowne persons to the evill, daungerous and  
 pernicious example of others They the said Allexander Cooke, and the said  
 Confederates aboue named by the Confederacie and combynacion aforesaide, not  
 onlie thereby most maliciously depraved and traduced your said subiectes by  
 divulgeing and publishing the said schandalous scurrilous and infamous Libells to  
 the greate disgrace and vtter Ignomy of your said subiectes in their names, Credittes,  
 reputacion and Religion att divers tymes in publique Assemblies But also hee the  
 said Allexander Cooke by the Confederacie aforesaid to blemish your subiectes with  
 all the disgrace hee could hath divers seuerall times since aswell in the pullpit  
 punctuallie in his sermons, and also privately at his conventicles and Meetings most  
 maliciously published and divulged the same infamous and schandalous libells to

the greate disgrace disparagement and blemish of your subiectes hee preaching and saying in theis or like wordes in effect: Wee haue not only ffornicators & Adulterers amongst vs, but also a knowne towne bull, being the verie wordes of the first recited Libell, And that the Popes pardons called Bills were not aswell knowne to the learned, as the towne Bull was and is knowne with vs And in like manner also the said other aboue named Confederates being encouraged the more therevnto by the wicked example of the said Allexander Cooke have oftentimes and in divers places in publike and private and in Tavernes, Alehouses, and such like published and divulged, sunge, repeated, and sayed the said Libells Laughed and made such iollitie thereat, and expounded the same and the meaninge thereof howe and wherein they touched and concerned your said subiectes, the said Iohn Harrison and the rest of the said parrishioners and euery of them And not soe contented to haue so vnlawfully published the said infamous libells to the disgrace and schandall of your subiect Iohn Metcalf, and your said other Subiectes, and of the said Iohn Harrison, and other the said parrishioners, but desirous and ayminge thereby alsoe more perticulerlie to impeach the Creditt of your subiect Iohn Metcalfe in his trade and course of life (being a greate trader and dealer in buying and selling of Wooles and cloth Whereby your highnes subsidies paid by him and his ffactors heretofore hath amounted to a Thowsand powndes yearelie or thereaboutes<sup>15</sup> They the said Allexander Cooke, and other his said malitious Confederates aboue named haue oftentimes since the said Libells soe framed and made repeated the said Libells and the Matters conteyned in them to diuerse your Maiesties subiectes Marchantes and others in your Highnes Cittie of Yorke and townes of Kingston vppon Hull, Wakefield, Hallifax, and other places where, and with whome your subiect Iohn Metcalf occupied and vsed such his trading. And therevppon <sup>have soe</sup> intimated vnto them matters of suspition of your said subiectes estate, against him your said subiect, as that whereas before hee your said subiect could and might haue vppon his meere Creditt a Note in writing taken vpp and dealt for a Thowsand powndes and more at anie tyme: hee cannot nowe by reason of such their slaundering, and disgracing him deale vppon such his creditt soe much as for the tenth part thereof And whereas your said subiect Iohn Metcalfe <.>s bailiffe of the said towne of Leedes and as belonging to his office, and as ffarmours to your Maiestie hath the Tolle of the ffaires and Markettes there, and by the Tolle dish in the said Libell first aboue recited named doth take the due tolle, of Corne in the said Markett: Hee the said Allexander Cooke, and his said Confederates having first by the said last recited Libell as aforesaid sclaundered your said subiect for and about the said Tolle dish and other the Matters<sup>16</sup> in the said Libell conteyned, and having stered vpp thereby the Common people against your said subiect Yet is soe satisfied since then hath collected and gathered amongst his said Confederates and their Acquaintances and manie hundredes of other persons vnknowne vsing the said Markett at Leedes at divers times twoe or three hundred powndes at least to maintaine suites, and other their practized means, thereby to avoid and depriue your said subiect of his said ffarme and benefitt of the said Tolle, and accordinglie there were seuerall suites for that end since the making of the said libells mainteyned commenced and prosecuted by the said Allexander Cooke and his said Confederates in your highnes court of duchie Chamber at Westminster and elsewhere, which they prosecuted with such

violence, as that the said Allexander Cooke saied hee would spend the ffruites of his Viccaridge, but that hee Would haue your said subiect barred of and from the said Toll and Toll dish. All *which* their said doeinge perticulerlie as against your said subiect Iohn Metcalf hath bin and is to his perticuler damage of a thowsand powndes at the least And your said subiectes further shewe and informe vnto your *Maiestie* That the said Alexander Cooke of his owne hott and violent humor and by the encouragement of his said Confederates, and being of his sect and *faccion* doth in all the frame and course of his life to the great disquiett of the said *parishioners* withstand, oppugne, and absolutelie refuseth and neglecteth to vse the due and indifferent rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England prescribed and allowed And perticulerlie Whereas there is and hath bin an auntient, Lawdable, and Christianly vse and Custome within this your Realme of England prescribed by the Church for the interment and buryall of the Corps of the dead, the vse and custome whereof being that the dead corps should be brought into the Church, and after certaine prayers and places of holie scripture appointed to be read then in decent and comely manner to be interred and buried as becommeth Christians: Hee the said Allexander Cooke not onlie holdeth and openlie professeth the said Custme and vse to be superstitious, and contemneth the Constitutions, and forme prescribed by the Church in that behalfe; but making his owne factious opinions, and contemptuous inventions the onlie meanes to worke his owne endes, and to execute his private Malice , against your said subiectes and all their freindes and ffavourers after they are departed this life, exercising there by his implacable and irreconcylable Malice to the evill Example of the Ministry and vtter iniury to the deade Corps of such your subiectes freindes and such of the said parrishioners as are not of his faction and Secte, Hath divers and sundrie tymes since his said admission to the said Viccaridge refused to admitt diuerse such dead Corps to be brought into the Church, and diuerse others *which* were brought into the Church hee would neither vse and read the prayers and places of Scripture himself nor suffer anie other to supplie his place, or saie, or read the prayers and places of Scripture as is set forth and allowede by the Church to be said at the buriall of the dead In more perticuler manifestacion whereof, Soe it is maie it please your most excellent *Maiestie* That one Robert Benson a younge Childe of one Robert Benson *gentleman* a parrishioner of the said parrish of Leedes, *which* Childe departed this life on or about the Nyne and twentieth daie of December in the ffifteenth yeare of your *Maiestes* Raigne being brought in decent Manner by the ffreindes and kindred of the said Robert Benson the father to the said Church to be interred and buried: Hee the said Allexander Cooke being then present in the Church did then and there most malitiously and out of his former *pretensed* and settled resolution of Malice most vnchristianly and vncharitably not onlie refuse to saie anie the prayers, or read anie the partes of Scripture vsed and set forth by the Clergie of the Church to be vsed by the Minister at the interment and buriall of the dead: But did also most contemptuouslie and vnchristianlie refuse to admitt his Curate or anie other to vse the same, or to accompanie the said Child to the grave (although hee were by the father of the said child and diuerse of the parrishioners of the said parrish in gentle and Loving manner sundry times importuned therevnto,<sup>17</sup> By meanes of *which* obstinate contemptuous and Malitious refusall of the said Allexander Cooke the said

Robert Benson was enforced to his exceeding great greife and sorrowe to carrie his owne childe to the grave and then and there to interre and bury him himself And aswell since then as before hee the said Allexander Cooke (since hee became soe Viccar of the said parrish) hath diuerse times verie contemptuously and vncharitable practized and shewed the like resoluccion of his vnchristianly Malice and revenge against the dead Corps of diuerse other your subiectes freindes, the parrishioners of the said parrish of Leeds (as namelie) against Elizabeth Manver wife of one Iames Manver whoe since then and in or about November in the ffifteenth yeare of your Maiesties reigne, departing this life was in comelie and decent Manner accompanied to the said Church of Leedes by divers of the parrishioners of the said parrish But such was the Rancor and inveterate spleene of the said Allexander Cooke towards the dead Corps of the said Elizabeth Manver that hee would by noe meanes admitt or suffer the same to be brought vnto the Church, Wherevpon the said parrishioners after manie Requestes and intreaties made vnto the said Allexander Cooke both for the admittance of the said corps to be brought into the said Church as also that the prayers appointed to be vsed at the buriall of the dead might be read, and the said parrishioners not prevailing with the said Allexander Cooke after a long staie departed thence leaving the dead Corps in the Church porch of Leedes aforesaid which the said Cooke after their departure thence about midnight after most inhumanlie dragged and caused to be dragged by the legge to the grave, and then and there to be throwne into the grave leaving the same vncouered. And likewise one Iohn Broadley another parrishioner of the said parrish of Leedes the dead Corpse of him being in decent and comelie Manner brought to the said Church by diuerse of the said parrishioners his Neighbours to be interred and buried hee the said Allexander Cooke most maliciously out of his settled Resoluccion of Revenge caused the Church dore to be bolted Neither suffering the said dead Corps to be brought into the Church nor anie bell to be runge for him, wherevpon the parishioners that accompanied the said dead Corps to the Church after a long staie departed leaving the dead Corps in the Church porch which after their departure thence the said Cooke in the Night time drewe and caused to be drawne to the grave, and then and there without reading anie prayers appointed to be saied at the buriall of the dead vncivillie and barbarously buried and caused to be buried And the said Alexander Cooke hath also diuerse and sundry times since hee so became Viccar of the said parrish Church of Leedes in like vncivill and vnchristian manner buried and caused to be buried diuerse your subiectes freindes the parrishioners of the said parrish of Leedes (as namelie) *(blank)* Roome the wife of one Arthure Roome, Marie Baynes widdowe, Alice Broadley the wife of the said Iohn Broadley. Which vnchristian, inhuman, and malicious Carriages of the said Allexander Cooke hath not onlie continewed and practized against the dead Corps of your subiectes freindes and such of the said parrishioners as are not of his faction euer since his institucion to the said Viccaridge of Leedes, but alsoe most maliciously out of his settled resoluccion of Revenge hath diuerse and sundrie times also since then inveighed detracted and publiquellie in the pulpit in most prophane and slanderous Manner traduced<sup>18</sup> and depraued your said subiectes and their freindes and diuerse others of the parrishioners of the said parrish of Leedes by those verie names in his seditious sermons there preached terminge them irreligious Atheistes,



whore Masters, drunkerdes, Epicures, Infidelles Abbey Lubbers, and other odious Names not fit to be vttered by anie true professor of the Gospell in particularizing anie Man in that publique manner sometimes naminge them plainelie by their seuerall Names, other times describinge them more obscurellie by Circumlocutions and Circumstances, and by the libellous and slanderous<sup>19</sup> denotacion aforesaid in the said libell conteyned and such like to the vnderstanding of his owne sectaries and Confederates All which are to the great astonishment of the hearers and breach of all rules of charitie and good demeanour And since hee became so Viccar of the said Church hath alsoe diuerse times very prophanelie and furiouslie preached and divulged in his said sermons That the feastes of the Nativitie of the birth of Christ was not to be obserued in Winter as the Church superstitiously doth (as hee said) for that our blessed Saviour was not borne at that time of the yeare which is superstitiously obserued by the Church of England, yealding for his reason that the Shepeheardes watched their flockes that time of the yeare, and therefore that would not be in the winter but in Sommer And alsoe that the day wee call Good fridaie ought not to be soe called, but rather a cursed daie; that there ought not anie prayer to be appointed on that day And whereas the Church hath prescribed that at the receaving of the holie Communion of the bodie and bloud of Christ, all the Communicantes should for the more reuerent receaving thereof kneele vppon their knees: hee the said Allexander Coke in contempt of order and the Ceremonies of the Church hath diuerse times since hee became soe Vicar there refused to administer the holie Communion to those that kneele, and they having offred to kneele hath most contemptuously Rayled and reviled at them terming them Papistes and put them from Communion as namelie hee soe did to Iohn Bake and his wife, Augustine Ienkinson the younger, Mathewe Tompson, Iames Coverdale Elizabeth Sasby William Iohnson, Marie Holme, William Townend, Elizabeth Tealer, Iohn Bottom Alice Bridges, Humfreye Browne and diuerse others of the said parrish and generallie to the great dislike of such of the said parishioners as are conformeable to the Rites and Ceremonies vsed and allowed hee administreth the same vnreverently sittinge, and standing, and likewise most irreligiouslie teacheth and publisheth that the Confirmacion of Children by the Buishoppe is nothing but Babbles and Ratles, and termeth the same superstitious. And whereas it is prescribed that at the celebracion of Matrimony the father, or some other Man should give <t>he Woeman in marriage and that they should not be married with (*blank*) a Ring Hee the said Allexander Cooke in contempt thereof and to ceasse the said Ceremony and ordinance of the Church hath caused one Woeman to give another in marriage, and tearmeth the Ringe superstitious, yea such and soe manie are the meare Inventions and phantastick opinions broached from time to time by the said Allexander Cooke to the great schandall of the Rites and ceremonies vsed and allowed in the Church of England and greivous disturbance of the parrishioners of the said parrish of Leedes And that thervppon and by such his said factious and seditious opinions and discipline hee the said Allexander Cooke hath and doth daily stirr vpp much iangling, and idle and vaine questions and difference amongst his parrishioners about such his opinions and newe Inventions. (And further such hath bin the greedy and vnsetled carriage and behaviour of the said Allexander Cooke since his being Viccar of the said parrish of Leedes towardes your subiectes and others his saide

parrishioners<sup>20</sup> That vppon seuerrall sabbath dayes such his factious and greedy<sup>21</sup> humor working more abundantlie in him, Hee hath to the great abuse of your subiectes and the Congregation consisting of five or six thowsand persons being all assembled to heare divine service at the said Church of Leedes vppon a verie soddaine and malitious conceipt against your subiectes and their ffrendes and ffavourers being in the said Church in greate fury and rage abruptlie and long before prayers or sermon ended, departed out of th Pullpit there and there publishing that there neither should be service, nor sermon in the Church more as vppon that daie Commaunding and willing the Congregation to depart, and that those *which* held his opinions, and were his ffollowers should resort to heare divine service, at his owne Vicarridge house in the said towne of Leedes , and thervppon divers of his owne sect resorting thither hee accordingly preached openly in the yearde on the backside, and in his said howse other tymes. And in further accomplishment of <sup>his</sup> implacable malice against your Subiectes and ther ffreindes Hee the said Allexander Cooke most malitiouslie since his said being Viccar of Leedes publiquelie vppon divers saboath dayes and other dayes appointed for the Admyenstracion of the holie Communion of the bodie and bloud of *our* Lorde and Saviour Ies<..> Christe most irreligiously and malitiously at the tyme of divine service and sermons in the same parrish Church and in presence of the Congregation assembled therein both before and at the administration of the holie Communion to the greate abuse of the Communicantes <and> prophanation thereof most reproachfullie and schandalously revile <sup>disgrace</sup> and <.....> your saide subiectes and others their ffreindes as namelie one Augustine Ienkenson, George Yeadon, ffrancis Clowdesley, Iohn Bake, William Brooke and Thomas Brooke and divers others of the parrishioners of Leedes , The *which* said persons being men of the best <.....> and <.....> the most sufficient householders and Clothiers of the said parish of Leedes whoe cominge together with their servantes and famelie of purpose prepared recei<..> the same holie Communion he most vncharitable vntrulie schandallously and vnlawfullie called them Hogges, Rogues, <...>ers, Buggers, Murderers, Incestuous persons, Turkes and other shamefull and reproachull Names then and there most malitiously and publiquelie affirminge that the said Augustine Ienkinson <..... ..> who vsed to deale Money to the poore at Christmas presuming that the same would saue him from the devill, but said withall that that was it would carrie him streight to the devill. And then and there allsoe most malitiously slaundersously and vntrulie Chargeth the said George Yeadon with Buggery and that hee had gotten a Cowe with Calfe. By meanes of *which* and such other his said schandelous and malitious speches and Carriages the said persons together with ther ffreindes and servantes were by him the said Cooke and his Confederates put from the Communion and by force thereof out of the Church dores and so departed out of the said Church being much perplexed and disquietted in their myndes in respect they were so debarred and from the Receaving of the holie Communion (they being in Charitie and well prepared to haue received the same,<sup>22</sup> And in such like rude and barbarous Manner without anie iust cause hath hee malitiouslie offred to thrust out of the said Church and reviled against *your* said subiectes themselues being readie prepared to haue received the said Communion and sacrament And your subiectes doe further shewe and informe *your* most excellent Maiestie that the said Allexander Cooke still continewing his inveterate

and irreconcilable Mallice against your subiectes and others their ffreindes hath left noe Waies or meanes vnattempted to worke his owne Will and execute his said Malitious Resolution<sup>23</sup> of Revenge against *your* subiectes and their ffreindes ffor whereas the said Alexander Cooke shoulde not onlie in respect of his Ministerie and function be an Example for others to ymetate and followe, especiallie in composing strifes and making peace betwixt Man and man, and cheifelie amongst those vnder his owne chardge, But the saide Cooke neither respectinge his function, charge, or the example hee should give to others hath since hee was soe Viccar must vnlawfullie combyned and confederated himself to and with one Richardson a Proctor in the Consistorie Court at York of the most Reuerend father in god Toby Lord Archbuishopp of York his grace for the perpetuall vexation of your subiectes and their ffreindes to their all most vtter vndoeing most malitiouslie to vex and oppresse them with a Multitude of vaine and fivolous<sup>24</sup> suites some for ffive shillinge, others for a <sup>^</sup><...> some for a half penny and others for small thinges of small or noe value meerelie invented by practize and confederacie betweene him and the said Richardson partlie to extract and get Money for Composicions and so enrich themselues, and partlie to wreake his malice & Revenge agaynst such his perishioners as in anie sort dislike his factious and distempered humours opinion and Carriage and are not of his sect and faction (as namelie) and more perticulerlie hee hath of Meare Malice without anie iust cause since hee became soe Viccar of the said parrish cited in the <sup>said</sup> Consistory Court twoe hundred persons of his Parrishioners in one yeare, in some yeares more, some lesse (as namelie) *your* said subiectes Iohn Metcalfe, Iohn Bake, and Christopher Ridley, and allso William Bushell, Thomas Wightman, Stephen Walker, Thomas Pawson and ffive hundred more of the parrish for pigge, for a penny half penny a peece And staie for having on their hat in the Church and for such like trifles infinite to recite Refusing vpon his first demaund of anie such dutie to him, or anie Citacion for anie the said causes published to accept of what hee demaundeth to be his due though they haue all offred the same till such time as hee put them first to greate charges and expences to appeare in the said Court vpon such Citations, and take Coppies of seuerall libells put into the said Court by him and his said Procter, and the takinge and extorting Composicions from the said persons double, and trebble and foure times as much as his due at anie time is and to the intollerable vexacion and oppression of the said parreshioners And more perticulerlie at one time hee cyted and caused to appeare and take a Coppie of his Libell in the said Court *your* said subiect Iohn Metcalfe for Easter reconinges not amounting to five shillinges or thereaboutes though *your* subiect came to him and offred to paie him the same and more before anie suit begun, but hee refused till hee got ffifteene shillinges for a Composicion, and put *your* subiect to ffifteene shillinges more charge. And in like manner hee cited the said Iohn Bake to the said Court for a penny half penny onlie being <sup>^</sup>some Church dutie due to him as hee pretended, *which* hee the said Bake offred to paie hiim but hee refused to accept thereof And although after suite comenced the said Bake did diuerse times offer him the same, and his Costees yet did hee still prosecute the said suite against the said Bake to his vtter vndoeing, so that for Costes and Composicion taken by him hee caused the said Bake to spend Eight powndes at least, and in like sort hath hee caused some of the said parrishioners to spend, seaven, eight, or ten

powndes a peece in such his frivolous suites, Notwithstanding that they haue offred and haue bin readie to paie him whatsoever is his due, and more without anie suite at all Whereby the said parishioners are sore terrified and oppressed by him and are manie times inforced thereby for quietnes sake to prevent his vexacion, to paie him much more then is his due, as namelie the said Austin Ienkinson and ffrancis Clowdesley came to reckon before Easter last past for their Easter duties with him but hee told them that hee would not reckon with them, but if they would laie downe his due hee would receaue it, yet hee sayed if there wanted one half penny hee woulde make it cost them a hundreth powndes <sup>a</sup> peece by which threateninge they were forced without making anie reconinge with him for surenesse to paie five shillinges more then his due, and all for feare of his trouble And further whereas it pleased your highnesse (some differences having risen in former times about bearing of Rushes to the Church<sup>25</sup> to tollerate, and give allowance to the Civill, decent and indifferent bearing of the same, and other honest comely Recreations at such times vsed and accustomed by your highnes pleasure signified in print in a little booke observinge the orders and Circumstances by the same prescribed. The saide Allexander Cooke, in manifest contempt and disobedience of your said highnes pleasure and will soe signified and to stirre vpp vnlawfull vproares and dissensions amongst the people and Parrishioners of the said parrish of Leedes and to drawe them into vnlawfull Ryott, force and faction one against another doth not onlie most seditiouslie and contemptuously preach and raile in his sermons against your Maiestie and your highness said pleasure and will in by the said book signified, but alsoe vnlawfully writeth, directeth and putteth forward diuerse of his owne faction in riotous and vnlawfull Assemblies with force and armes to withstand all such as honestlie and civillie recreate that disport themselues in their honest and indifferent Recreations soe allowed and tollerated by your Matie as aforesaid bestirring himself also in all cruell, distemperate and furious manner to withstand those honest and civill Recreations cruellie beating and wounding with his owne handes divers of your highnes subiectes soe civilly and orderly recreating themselues And the more perticularly to manifest the same. So it is may it please your most excellent Maiestie That on Iames day<sup>26</sup> which was in the sixteenth yeare of your highnes Raigne there was then at Leedes aforesaid by former appointment by the parishioners of the same parrish of Leedes a decent and lawfull Assemblie of the younger sort of people of the said parrish with Musick and other decent shewes with bearing Rushes to the said Church of Leedes for the furnishing and decking of the said Church commonlie called a Rushbearing which was performed by divers of the said parishioners and younger people then and there soe assembled observing in all thinges the Circumstances and prescript orders signified by your princelie direccion in the booke aforesaid, as that it should not be in the time of divine service and sermon, and such like: But the said Allexander Cooke opposinge the same withstanding all indifferent thinges to be in anie sort vsed which are not after his owne fantasticall braine sicke invention, and divers others of his Confederates by his procurement and by confederacie amonge themselues Namelie the said George Hargreave, William Pulleyn Ralph Cooke, ~~and other his said Confederates aboue would do~~ and others the said Confederates aboue named and others did the said St. Iames daie betwixt or neere the houres of twelue and one of the Clock in the afternoone of the

same daie Riotouslie assemble and arme themselues with swordes and other weapons at Leedes aforesaid where the said Parrishioners were recreatinge themselues after they had the fornoone borne the said Rushes to the Church as the manner and Custome is. And so armed and assembled did riotouslie drawe their said weapons and swouerdes against the drummers Pipers and other Musitions and cut in peeces their drummes pipes and other instrumentes of Musick, cast them vnder their feete and breake them in peeces and raised greate hurley burley and disquiet amongst the people soe quietlie and decentlie recreatinge themselues calling them Rogues, Rascalls, whores and whore Masters and such like. And when they had sufficientlie breathed out such their venemous and malitious wordes and practized such their Riotous and distempered Actions then and not before they bid them follow them to the said Church for that Eveninge prayer should beginne presentlie which the said younger people accordinglie did giving ouer all Recreation till divine service was that afternoone ended, Since when there was againe in the seaventeenth yeare of your highnes Raigne by consent of the said Parrishioners of Leedes another Rushbearing appointed to be had on Bartholomewe daie<sup>27</sup> that yeare whereof hee the said Allexander Cooke hearing did in seuerall sermons openlie in the pullpit in the said Church of Leedes most seditiouslie and contemptuouslie rayle against your Maiestie and such your highnes tolleracion of decent recreacion and bearing of Rushes signified in the said booke, Reviling against the same, calling it and such like Recreations impious ffooleries and Villanies, and that hee knewe not what warrant men might haue from your Maiestie to doe them, but hee knewe they had noe warrant from God nor his word And whosoeuer did by coullor of your Maiesties tolleracion exercise those sportes might well saue their Neckes from the halter, but could neuer saue their soules from the hell fyre And therefore wished all his freindes to forbear bringinge anie Rushes to the Church. And further to manifest his Malice towardes your subiectes hee hath for the most part both riding and going on foote allwaies carried and worne a case of Pistolls, or one Pistoll at the least and a dagger contrarie to your highnes Lawes of this Realme to fullfill his disobedient and fantasticall humour of purpose to prevent the Rushes to be brought into the Church the said St. Bartholomewe day hee the said Allexander Cooke otherwise then euer before, did or was euer done or vsed by himself or anie Viccar his predecessor went to Church by seaven of the Clocke in the morning of the same daie, and there finding diuerse younge men ringing the bells hee presentlie sent one to them bidding them to cease and leaue ringinge, But they knowing it not to be neere service time, and that people were not as yet come to the Church did not presentlie vpon that his bidding give ouer such their Ringing, Wherevppon the said Alexander Cooke in a greate rage and furie tooke a great staffe with twoe graines of Iron in it out of a Mans hand was present there and most malitiouslie strooke three times at one Iohn Hargreave whoe stood by the said Ringers, and at the third strooke broke it on his shoulders in the Church to the great schandall of those that were there present, and there vppon presentlie caused his Curate to beginne to read divine service himself with purpose of prevention and not of anie devotion preaching that daie contrarie to his Custome, never vsing to preach on anie Apostles or Saintes dayes before that time such his palpable dealinge and Prevention. Notwithstanding the younger people would not bring in their Rushes the fornoone of the same daie as vse was

because hee continewed prayer and sermon all that time aforesaid: But went orderlie and willinglie to church *without* them; but about half an hower after twelue a Clock after dynner, they *prepared* themselues and carried their Rushes to the Church, but cominge thither contrarie to all Custome *formerlie* vsed they found the Church dores to be fast locked as in truth hee the said Allexander himself had locked them soe that they would not get into the Church to strew and beautifie the same with their Rushes *prepared* for that purpose in such sort as they had *formerlie* vsed to doe, and therefore verie decentlie such of the Yong persons as were come to the Church dores went about the Church to see if they could get into the Church at anie dores And also diuerse other youngge persons verie decentlie cominge vpppe a streete adioyning to the Church with Rushes towardes the Church met the said Mr Cooke cominge towardes the Church, whoe vppon the sight of them was in such a rage and furie <sup>Λ</sup> *towarde them* that hee most malitiouslie and furiouslie strook at and did beate diuerse of the said Persons with his owne handes and namelie one Grace Ise whoe being peaceablye standing in the said streete was strooke downe to the grownd with the said Cooke, in such malitious and furious rage and was thereby hurt and his said Confederates <sup>Λ</sup> *aboue named* aiding and assisting verie cruellie and riotouslie beaten and her body bruised for the space of Ten dayes after shee spitt nothing but bloud Neither was shee able for ffoureteene dayes often to stand vpp or move either of her Armes shee being soe verie cruellie and riotouslie beaten and bruised as aforesaid And then and therevppon also in such his rage and furie hee the said Cooke going into the Church and the People forthwith bringing in their Rushes hee went *presentlie* vpp into the Pullpitt, and first commaunded diuerse persons there *present* in the Church to pull downe the Rushes and not to suffer the *servantes* that bore them as the manner is <sup>Λ</sup> *to carry them to* to their Masters Pewes or seates: but hee the said Cooke seeing them vnwilling to doe such his commaund hee with his said Confederates *presentlie* came downe out of the pulpitt and went out of the Church towardes his owne house, And in the waie they did verie cruelly and riotously beate diuerse Children being in the streete, and especiallie twoe Children called (*blank*) who did in the said shewe and Rushbearinge the one of them beare your *Maiesties* picture, and the other the most illustrious *Prince Charles* his picture your highnes sonne in their handes And the said Allexander Cook the same daie in furious and vnseemelie sort tooke a halbert in his hand shaking it and saying in the *presence* of diuerse people there *present*: I wish I had Harrison and Metcalf heare (meaning your said Subiect Iohn Metcalf and the said Iohn Harrison *aboue named*) that I might drive the streete of Twentie of them And the more alsoe to shewe his giddy brainelesse, and distempered *disposicion* he vsuallie doth ride and walke with Pistolles charged, and being asked by his ffrendes whie hee being a Cleargie Man doth soe demeane himself and beare such weapons answered because I will bosome some of them (meaninge your said subiectes and such as are not of his sect and faction) <...> *vnder Consideration whereof*. And for as much as the said wicked and enormous offences and misdemeanors herein *aboue mencioned* and complayned of are contrarie to your highnes Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, and are of verie daungerous consequence and <sup>Λ</sup> *evill example fo* <...> <.....> persons to followe, and are to the great schandall, losse, dammage, and *preiudice* of your subiectes and the said Parrishioners of Leedes in their good names estates and Course of life And were

committed and done since your <M.....> Maie it therefore please your Maiestie to award your highnes gracious processe of Subpena directed to the same Allexander Cooke, Ralph Cooke, ffrancis Iefferay, William Key the elder William K < ..... > and Elizabeth his wife, Martin Laycocke, William Mawson, Willian Hutton, Iohn Watson, George Hargreave, William Pulleyn, Iosua Hill Clarke <sup>^</sup>Mansfeilde Hassell and the said ther Confederates when their nam< ..... > a certaine daie, and vnder a certaine paine there in to be lymmitted personallie to appeare before your highnes, and the Lordes of your highnes most honorable privie Councell in the high Court of Star< ..... > And further to stand to and abide such further order, censure and direccion therein as to your highnes and the Lordes your highnes previe Councell shalbe thought fittinge and agreeable < ..... > dutie bound, praie for your Maiestie &c/

Memorandum that by a Rule dated 28<sup>o</sup> Ianuarij <sup>^</sup>Anno 19<sup>o</sup>. Iacobus Regis Martin Laycokes name was amended only in the prayer of the proces and the names of Mansfeilde Hassell and William Thompson were encerted by the same Rule/

<sup>1</sup>Lowth] *Alexander Cooke held a position here from 5 February 1601 until 30 October 1604, when he was removed because of Puritan attitudes, including his refusal to wear a surplice.*

<sup>2</sup>Buishopp] *William Chaderton, bishop of Lincoln from 1595 until his death 11 April 1608*

<sup>3</sup>Robert Cooke] *Robert Cooke was vicar of Leeds from 18 December 1590 until his death on 1 January 1615.*

<sup>4</sup>instituted Viccar] *Tobie Matthew, Archbishop of York, appointed Alexander Cooke to the position on 17 January 1615. He had been convinced by a group of leading townsmen, including the plaintiff and three of the defendants in this case (Richard Sykes, John Watson, and Ralph Cooke), to by-pass the choice of those other civic leaders who had purchased the advowson in 1588. The suit in the royal chancery court that resulted from this action was decided in favour of Cooke on 29 August 1617.*

<sup>5</sup>Cerberus with poysoned dart] *Cerberus was the three-headed dog that guarded the entrance to Hades. His dart may be his serpent's tail or his tongue; the association with poison alludes to Ovid, Metamorphosis, Book VII, in which the foam or spit from the mouth of Cerberus produced the poisonous plant Aconitum, or wolfsbane.*

<sup>6</sup>Trull] *a wench or young woman; more pejoratively, a strumpet or low prostitute*

<sup>7</sup>run the ringe] *running at the ring was a courtly martial sport that required mounted knights to hit a ring with their lance; here, with a metaphorical bawdy suggestion*

<sup>8</sup>Iehovah] *a name for God introduced into English in early 16th-century translations of the Bible*

<sup>9</sup>Hillary Terme] *the January to March court session*

<sup>10</sup>staplling Crewe] *the group of merchants with exclusive rights to purchase certain kinds of goods, in this instance wool and cloth*

<sup>11</sup>Gehenna] *the place of torment for wicked sinners; loosely, 'Hell'*

<sup>12</sup>Tolldish] *a dish or a bowl for measuring a toll of grain at a mill*

<sup>13</sup>backehouse hee hath raised] *'bakehouse ... razed'?—suggesting that Metcalfe's tolls have damaged seriously the provision of breads*

<sup>14</sup>amerciamentes] *finer or penalties*

<sup>15</sup>(being ... thereaboutes] *insert the missing closing parenthesis here?*

<sup>16</sup>Matters] *'e' partially destroyed by a hole in the membrane*

<sup>17</sup>(although ... therevnto,] *insert the missing closing parenthesis here?*

- <sup>18</sup>traded] 't' written over a 'd'  
<sup>19</sup>slanderous] several letters written over others  
<sup>20</sup>(And ... parrishioners] insert the missing closing parenthesis here?  
<sup>21</sup>greedy] second 'e' written over a 'd'  
<sup>22</sup>(they ... same] insert the missing closing parenthesis here?  
<sup>23</sup>Resolution] 's' written over a 'p'; 'o' over an 'e'  
<sup>24</sup>fiolous] presumably for frivolous  
<sup>25</sup>(some ... Church] insert the missing closing parenthesis here?  
<sup>26</sup>St. Iames day] 25 July  
<sup>27</sup>Bartholomewe daie] 24 August

**mb 2**  
***Demurrer of Alexander Cooke, clerk***

<.....> Iacobi Regis

Harker

The demurrer of Alexander Cooke clarke one of the *defendantes* And the Ioint and severall Answers of the said Alexander Cooke and of Raphe Cooke one other of the *defendantes*/ To the Bill of Compleynt of Iohn Metcalfe and others *Complainantes*./

The said defendant Alexander Cooke for and concerninge soe much of the said Bill whereby he this defendant is charged and accused to be a sectary or a puritane (*which* name of puritane the Ecclesiasticall historyes and Orthodox ffathers doe appropriate to a secte of cursed and blasphemous heriticks) And for and concerninge such other the matters of the said Bill as doe containe any charge or accusation of him this defendant for his supposed non Conformitie or disobedience in not vsinge or (in any degree) refusinge disobeyinge crossinge resistinge prevaricatinge or opposinge the lawes Rits<sup>1</sup> and Cerimonyes of this Church of England, And *particularly* for and concerninge his this *defendantes* supposed Refusall to bury the dead *with* such prayers and in such manner as is *prescribed* by the Booke of Comon prayer/ And concerninge his this *defendants* supposed vnseemely dragging the dead corps of the said *persons* in the Bill named into their Graves and leaivinge others vnburied And also for and concerninge his this *defendantes* supposed refusall to administer the holy Communion to *persons* kneelinge, or calling them Papists that did kneele, or puttinge of<sup>2</sup> the *Complainant* Bake or his wife or any other the *persons* mentioned in the said Bill or any others from Receivinge the holy Communion for that he or they did kneele, or this *defendants* vnreverent administringe of the same to *persons* sittinge or standinge, And for and concerninge the supposed vnseemely and vnreverent words suggested in the said Bill to haue beene vsed by this defendant against the confirmacion of Children by Bishoppes And for and concerninge the slaunderous vncharitable and vnchristian naminge of the *Complainants* and their freindes and favorers openly in



the Pulpitt, sometymes expressly, and some tymes by Circumlocutions describing them and callinge them Atheists whose mongers and other the said foule and odious names in the said Bill also Recited./ And for and concerning the defendants supposed diuulginge in his Sermon that *Christnmas* daye was not to be obserued in winter, and that the same is superstitiously obserued by the Church of England, Or that Goodfriday ought not to be called but rather a cursed daye, or that noe prayers ought to be celebrated <sup>^</sup>on that daye/ And concerning this defendants Refusall to celebrate matrimony with a Ringe or tearminge the same superstitious or causinge one woman other then once by the mother being A Widowe to giue an other in mariage And for and concerning this defendants furious and abrupt breakinge of of prayers and Sermon/ vpon seuerall Saboth dayes (or vpon any Saboth daye) vpon any malicious and hastie conceyt against the *Complainants* and their freinds and favorers, and Willinge the Congrigacion to depart, And Requiringe that those which held his this defendants opinions and were his followers should resort to his this defendants vicarage to heare prayers and Sermons/ or this defendants preachinge therevpon in the yeard<sup>3</sup> on the backside of his howse And concerninge the supposed Reprochfull and slaundersous Revilinge of the *Complainante* ffrauncis Clowdesley Iohn Bake and others the persons in the Bill also named by this defendant when they came to Receiue the holy Communion and calling them Rogues and other names of Reproch mentioned in the said Bill By meanes whereof they the said persons were putt from Receiuinge the holy Communion, he this defendant therevnto sayth that albeyt he this defendant be in noe sort guilty of them or any of them in such manner and forme as in the *Complainants* said most falls malicious and slaundersous bill is alledged and suggested <sup>^</sup>against this defendant And albeyt most of them are mere fictions of their or some of their the said *Complainants* owne braynes without any Colour or shadowe at all of any such thinge And although for euery <sup>^</sup>of the Rest of the said supposed crimes the said *Complaints* haue eyther of Ignorance or otherwise willfully and maliciously mistaken misreported altered or enlarged the same/ So as he this defendant is able to giue a full and sufficient Answer thereto/ And albeyt this defendant be in sundry of the points mentioned in the bill of a contrary opinion to what is reported of him by the *Complainants*/ As namely both for the Ringe in mariage and kneelinge at the Receyt of the holy Sacrament of the Body and blood of Christe and haue sundry tymes publicly so taught yet neuertheles he this defendant sayth that (as he thinketh and by his Counsell is informed) he ought not by the Rules and Orders of this honorable Court to be compelled to giue or make any Answer to any the matters aforesaid the Iudgement and censure hereof of Right apperteyninge to the Ordinary<sup>4</sup> of the diocesse or other Ecclesiasticall Commissioners and Iudges in such cases specially authorised, and not to this highe and honorable Court/ And therefore he this defendant for all the seuerall matters aforesaid in the said Bill of Complaynt conteyned or any wayes mentioned demaundeth Iudgement of this honorable Court whether he this defendant shall by this Honorable Court be compelled to make or giue any suche or other Answer thereto/ And this defendant Alexander Cooke to giue to this Honorable Court some satisfacion that he hath not beene a man branded or any wayes touched with such crimes or vpon whome any such foule and contumelious imputacions might iustly be layed as in the said bill of Complaynt are mentioned, As

also for and concerninge the manner of his this defendants leaiving of his former benefice in Lincolneshire and of his Comminge to the Church and vicarage of Leedes in both *which* also the said *Complainants* lay vpon him this defendant sundry false and disgracefull aspercions, this defendant sayth vpon his othe as followeth *videlicet* that about Sixteene or Seaventeene yeares agoe he this defendant was vicar of the Church of Lowth (and not Souwth) in Lincolneshire and as he doubteth not (if need soe Requier) but he shall *proue* by sufficient testimony was then knowne and esteemed as well by the most honest and best of his owne *parishioners* as by sundry *Honorable* worshippfull and Religious persons in the Country there next adioyninge, and by the then Lord Bishopp of that diocesse, to be a man ~~and~~ of behaviour and cariage fittinge the function and place he then bore/ And confesseth that about that tyme he was deprived from his said vicarage, not for that he was growne or growinge to be a *perverse* factious Sectary and puritane or for that he was found *perverse* or obstinate in any factious or *perverse* opinions, or for any <sup>such</sup> not conformity as in the *Complainants* said Bill is most slaunderously and fallsly suggested (neyther was this defendant ever convented<sup>5</sup> before or Compleyned of the said Lord Bishopp for any such thinge, to his this defendants knowledge) But for this cause onely <sup>to this defendants knowledge</sup> *videlicet* for that he this defendant did refuse to subscribe to the Articles to him <sup>then</sup> offered by the said Lord Bishopp in such a forme as by the said Bishopp was then *prescribed* (he this defendant neuertheles beinge then wilinge to subscribe in such sort as sundry tymes formerly he had donne before the Lord Bishopp and others vpon diuers occasions) *which* Refusall by this defendant was not vpon any Refractory or *peruerse* humour but onely for that the said Manour of subscription beinge new vnto him this defendant could not then out of his vnderstanding thereof satisfie his Conscience that he might lawfully doethe<sup>6</sup> same/ And concerninge the manner of this defendants cominge to and obteyninge of the said vicarage of the said Church of Leedes this defendant saith that shortly after the deceas of the said Roberte Cooke (his this defendants brother and *predecessour* therein) he this defendant was Collated thereto, by the Right Reuerend ffather in God Tobie<sup>7</sup> now Lord Archbishopp of yorke metropolitane of England and Ordnerye of the said diocesse vpon the speciall suit instance and Request of the best affected and most Religious of the said *parishe* and of the greatest part of the said *parishioners*, of *which* number the said now *Complainant* Iohn Metcalf was then one of the most forward./ Concerninge the Reasons and occasion of wch<sup>8</sup> Collation soe made not beinge as this defendant conceiueth needfull to be here Related this defendant referreth himself to a bill of Compleynt exhibited into his *Maiesties* high Court of Chauncery by Sir Iohn Savile Sir Phillipp Cary Sir Arthur Ingram and Sir Iohn Wood Knights and sundry other Esquires Gentlemen and others of the most substantiall persons of the said *parishe* (amongst whome the said Iohn Metcalfe was also one) in their owne names and in the names of the Residue of the said *parishioners* vpon a title in Equity of the said *parishioners* vnto the said Advowson of the said benefice, and for the establishinge of this defendants possession and Encumbencye in the said vicarage against the said Lord Archbishopp of yorke Robert Birkhead<sup>9</sup> and others And to the Answer of the said Lord Archbishopp vpon his othe vnto the said Bill, wherein the said Lord Archbishopp doth at that tyme not onely free him this defendant from all opinion of desert of any

such asperitions as in the *Complainants* now bill are objected against him but also pleaseth to make declaracion and giue testimony of this *defendants* conformity to the present Church gouernment and of sundry vertues and graces which he ascribeth to this *defendant* not becominge him this *defendant* in modesty to report of himself/ In such suit the Inheritance of the said Advowson was decreed for the said *parishioners* *plaints* against the said then *defendants*, and this now *defendant* by decree established and confirmed Encumbent of the said vicarage But for the more precise truth and contents of the certainty of the said bill in Chauncery and of the decre succeeding herevpon this *defendant* referreth himself of the Records thereof Remayning in the said Court./ which testimony of the said lord Archbishopp and the *proceedings* and decree aforesaid, together with his this *defendants* owne behaviour and cariage sythence (as he hopeth) iustifying the same, he this *defendant* doubteth not will in the Iudgement of this honorable Court and of all indifferent *persons* ouerballance whatsoeuer the said *Complainants* haue or can in their malice suggest against him/ And concerning the said seuerall Libells in the *Complainants* Bill mentioned they these *defendants* ech of them for himself Sayen that they are vtterly ignorant thereof and of all Circumstances concerninge the same or eyther of them/ But whereas the *Complainant* Iohn Metcalf doth apply some words vsed by this *defendant* in his *Sermons* against whoremongers and Adulterers (namely that they were as Towne bulles) vnto himself, beinge (as he conceiueth and expoundeth the said libells) the person therein specially discribed, and that this *defendant* should borrow the said phrase from the said libell, he this *defendant* confesseth that many tymes before the said *Sermons* by him made, wherein he vsed these words he this *defendant* had from sundry credible *persons* heard very foule and shamefull Reports of diuers of the said *parishe* their loose and disordered course of life and of their insolent and shameles bouldnes to attempt and drawe women to that shamfull and horrible Sinne And therefore as in the duty of his place and in charity he was bound did in sundry *Sermons* as his text and other fittinge occasions offered vehemently inuey against that sinne, and as he now remembreth once or twice did vse the said Phraise beinge a Common and ordinary phrase and name given to such *persons* both in that and sundry other places of this kingdome/ But saith that the did not borowe the same from the said libell for that he had neuer heard nor seene any such libell, neyther did he this *defendant* name him the said *Complainant*, nor otherwise discouer him in any of his said *Sermons*, but in generall tearmes decyphred the said synn intending thereby rather to Reforme or make odious the Synne then to defame or provoke the *persons* of such delinquents/ And concerning the said suit for the toll dishe of Corne in the merkett of Leedes this *defendant* sayth that the same is & tyme out of mynde hath beene accompted a benevolence given by such as bring Corne to the said merkit to be soule vnto & for certeine charitable vses As first for clensing of the said merkit place Relief of the pore & for amendinge of the highwayes leading to the said towne of Leedes Concerning the which ther had beene a suit in the said Court of duchie Chamber betweene the then *farmers* of the Baielewick of Leedes & the aboue named Robert Cooke his this *defendants* brother & predeceased & other the Inhabitants of the said towne vpon which suit a finall Order was made in the said cause by Iohn Savile knight late one of his Maiestes Barons of his Exchequer by speciall

Commission from that Court/ And thereby one third part of the said toll lymited to the Bailief of Leedes for the tyme beinge & thother two parts vnto the Charitable vses aforesaid And according to the same Order was the same for many yeares together disposed as well ~~for~~ <sup>by</sup> the said Metcalf himself as by others the former vnder Lessees and farmers of the said Bailiewick vntill of late tyme that the said Metcalf out of a Covetuous and gredy desire of gaine did take & employ the same wholly to his owne private vse soe vtterly pervertinge & defeatinge the godly and charitable vses aforesaid for his owne advantage wherevpon some suits did arise in the said Court of duchie betweene this *defendant* & others of the charitable disposed Inhabitants of the *said* towne & the *said* Metcalf/ And likewis before the Commissioners for charitable vses/ who sythence haue decreed the same accordinge to the *said* former Order & decree made by the *said* Mr Baron Savile/ And this *defendant* confesseth that himself & some few others of the *said* towne & *parishe* of Leedes did contribute in the *said* suits to their greate charge But denyeth eyther that there was any such large summes gathered or such generall Contribution made as is pretended in the Bill./ And this *defendant* doth confesse that he hath sometymes affirmed that rather then the pore shalbe <sup>soe</sup> supplanted & the *said* charitable vses defeated he this *defendant* if others would not would himself spend a good part of the *profitts* of his benefice in maintenance of the *said* suit./ which he verily thinketh was lawfull for him both to saye and doe/ And whereas this *defendant*<sup>10</sup> is charged to haue commensed & presented diuers vexatious suits in the Ecclesiasticall Court for pence and half pence & such like triflinge sommes against sundry of the *said* parishioners this *defendant* hereto first sayth that the greatest part of the *profitts* of his *said* benefice being Thirty Eight pounds in the kings bookes & yet not worth one hundred pounds de claro<sup>11</sup> doth consist in such small Sommes *videlicet* two pence a man for Easter offerings penny half penny house duties penny a cowe an half penny a calf & such like/ And sayth that all the *said* Complainant Metcalfs Reconings (notwithstandinge his supposed greate tradinge) doe for himself & all that belong vnto him, as he hath pleased to make the same amount but to fifteene pence to his this *defendants* remembrance his books of accompt conteyninge the same beinge now in the Country/ And sayth that sundry of the *said* parishioners at his this *defendants* first cominge to the *said* vicarage, notwithstanding that he had both institution and induction denied him to be vicar & Refused to paye to him the duties to him of Right belonginge being animated hereto by such as the *plainant* Metcalf as he verily thinketh Wherevpon he this *defendant* was forced for triall of his Right<sup>12</sup> to sue for the same wherein both this *defendant* & some one or two of the *said* parties were putt to very greate charges for small sommes, which charges also did growe for the most part through their owne willfull delays & particulerly in that suit of the Complainant Bake mentioned in the *said* bill this *defendant* desiringe & endeavoringe to haue the same determined with expedition/ And saith that he this *defendant* after he had beene at greate charges & expenses in some of the *said* suits & Recouered Round damages & costs against them as namely to the valew of Tenn pounds against two seuerall persons hath vpon their submission Remitted both costs damages & tythe & all./ And sayth that in all the *said* supposed Controuersyes he did neuer sue aboute the number of xij. or xiiij/ persons at the most to his now Remembrance/ And sayth that

the said Metcalf hath heretofore forced this defendant to sue him for his Reconnings, & still doth, But denyeth that he this defendant euer gained hereby or tooke of him more then this defendants owne, nor hath this defendant extorted from the said Clowdesley or any other of them more then of Right belongeth to this defendant nor hath sued any of them vntill he was forced hereto by their withholdinge or denyinge his Right./ neyther did the defendant euer present any person for havinge on his hatt on his head in the Church albeit he might haue soe donne as he thinketh/ And concerninge the Rishbearings mentioned ~~concerninge the Rishbearings mentioned~~ in the said bill he this defendant saith that the same were as he taketh it in all points contrary to his Maiesties booke for first the Complainant Metcalf being deputy Bailief of the said towne did procure or at the least suffer a drummer of an other parishe to strike vp a drumme in the said towne on Munday beinge the markitt daye before the said Rishbearinge & to continew soe all the weeke longe vntill that daye to the end that other townes & parishes farr & nere might take notice thereof/ Secondly the said sports begann on the holy daye Morninge by five of the clock before all prayers & divine service/ Thirdly a very greate number of the persons which Resorted to the said sports were parishioners of other parishes/ ffourthly whereas two of the doores of the Church of Leedes a greater & a lesser were left open , whereby the persons who performed the said sports might haue entred into the said Church with their Rushes, yet that would not serve them, but they broke open a third doore which was shutt & entred in hereby/ ffiftly duringe the tyme that this defendant & a very greate number of the sober & devout parishioners were at diuine service in the afternoone of one of theis two dayes this other defendant Raphe Cooke & some other of the Churchwardens hearinge that there were at that tyme a greate number in the streets at the said ~~disored~~ <sup>disordered</sup> sports, repayred vnto them & there found one with a vizard on his face & a paire of Ramms hornes on his head playing his tricks, & to the number of three hundred persons looking thereon/ wherevpon this defendant charginge the Cunstable to loke hereto Returned back to the Church againe / And theis defendants further saye duringe the tyme of the said diuine service of one of the said dayes as the Congregacion in the Church were singinge a psalme betweene the two lessons appointed for that Euening prayer the said Riotous & disordered multitude repayred to the said Church & there with exceeding greate clamour & noyce interrupted the said prayers Soe as these defendantes with the Rest or the greatest number of the said Congregation were forced to leaue both prayers & church/ And this defendant Alexander Cooke saith that in his passage home along the streetes from the Church to his owne house he this defendant was soe pressed vpon by the vnruely multitude that if this other defendant Raphe Cooke his brother & some others his freinds had not garded him he had bene in great hazard of his life, the said multitude following them & threatning to pull downe the walles & gates before his house./ But theis defendants doe eyther of them Respectiuey vtterly deny that they did in their knowledge eyther wound or hurt eyther any such woman as in the bill is mentioned or any other person whatsoever, neyther heard they of any such woman to haue bene hurt vntill they found the same mentioned in the said bill/ onely this defendant Raphe Cooke with a little ~~Cudgell~~ <sup>sticke</sup> which he hade ~~.....~~ <sup>^</sup> ~~.....~~ <sup>^</sup> caught from a boy & this defendant Alexander Cooke with a painted stick which he caught from <sup>^</sup> an other a

little boy on horse back that by meanes of one that ledd his horse being as this *defendant* hath heard the *plainant* Metcalfes servant pressed vpon him this *defendant* with the horse did beate them back from him./ And doe also vtterly deny that they or eyther of them had then any other weapons saving that this *defendant* Raphe Coke had a dagger on his back which he ordinarily weareth./ And this *defendant* Alexander Cooke further sayth that as he thinketh & hopeth to proue to this honorable Courte the *said* Rishbearings were *procured* by the *Complainant* Metcalfe of purpos to vex & grieue this *defendant* by their disorders & that the *said* Metcalf hath reported that because that this *defendant* was not hereby (it being but on a hollyday) angrye inoughe he would not *procuer* an other Rishbearinge on the Saboth daye/ And where it<sup>13</sup> is suggested that this *defendant* did preach twice vpon the *said* holy dayes when the *said* Rushbearings were hade of purpos to hinder the same, where the *defendant* neuer useth to preach on holy dayes, this *defendant* saith that he pretched the former of those dayes onely one hower in the fore noone & one hower in the afternoon which after noone Sermon was in Respect that one Iohn Sykes named a *defendant* in this bill an honest substantiall & Religious yong man of the *said* towne & this *defendants* especiall friend was then buried/ for the second daye he this *defendant* prayed but once & that on the fore noone & at the ordinary tyme whiche did in Respect of a mariage to which there came a greate concourse of people which might take some good thereby/ And saith that heretofore he hath vsed to preach on holy dayes & that his this *defendants* defect of preachinge on the holy dayes now groweth through the infirmity of his yeares not being able to take the paynes he formerly hath doone, yet continewally preacheth twice on the saboth daye/ And where the *said* *Complainants* doe in their *said* bill most maliciously wickedly & fallsly suggest that this *defendant* did vpon the *said* latter Rushbearinge daye seditiously & contemptuously Raile against the kings sacred Maiestie & his tolleracion of decent Recreation & bearing of Rushes Revilinge the same with such vnseemely words as in the *said* bill is suggested, he this *defendant* doth vtterly deny the same to be true, And saith that he hath often preached much honour of the kinge but neuer any thinge tending to his dishonor & professed he would not argue whether such sports were lawfull or noe because his Maiestie had approued them/ But this *defendant* confesseth that he sayd if his Maiestie had knowne the disorders that fell out at such meetings that he this *defendant* was persuaded his Maiestie would not haue thought them convenient in such a towne as the *said* towne of Leedes is./ And concerning this *defendants* supposed beatinge of one Iohn Hargraue in the Church for that he would not cause the Ringers to giue over their Ringinge shortly after seaven of the Clock in the morninge, he this *defendant* saith that the *said* Ringers continewinge their Ringinge that daye vntill about Nyne of the Clock as this *defendant* was then tould it then was at wch tyme<sup>14</sup> prayers ought to haue begunn this *defendant* havinge as he now remembreth & thinketh he shall proue if need Requier before sent the *said* Iohn Hargraue (being this *defendants* servant & a man whome he imployeth in his private busines & giveth him both meate & money) to Requier the *said* Ringers to giue over their Ringinge & they Refusinge he this *defendant* himself was forced to goe upp into the second lofte of the steeple of the *said* Church where the *said* persons were Ringinge he this *defendant* cominge amongst them & Rebukinge them was caught

with a bell rope & in greate daunger to haue bene slaine had not the *said* Ringers or some others there present Rescued him wherevpon he this *defendant* being moved at the *said* Iohn Hargraue did take vpp a cudgell *which* then stood against the wall belonging to one of the Ringers & gaue the *said* Hargraue one blow therewith ouer his buttockes *which* as this *defendant* is verily *persuaded* hurt him not albeyt the staffe (throughe some former taint as was likely) broke, for he the *said* Hargraue did neuer compleyne thereof./ And for this *defendants* wearinge of a pistole he this *defendant* saith that he was forced thereto for his owne safty through sundry Reports made to this *defendant* that there was a mischiefe intended against him this *defendant*./ And saith for the most part he hath worne the *said* pistall without eyther powder or shott & some tymes charged with powder onely but neuer with any bullett/ And for a further & more full and direct Answer to all and euerye the Combinacions makinge and publishinge of Libells seditious words against his Royall Maiestie & all & euery other the offenses & misdemeanours in the *Complainants said* bill mentioned, (other then such supposed offenses and misdemeanours concerninge *which* this *defendante* hath as aforesaid demurred in lawe) these *defendants* eyther of them Respectiuely for himself sayen that they are thereof & of euery of them not guilty <...> same are by them the *said* *Complainants* in their *said* Bill declared against them theis *defendants*./ And these *defendants* doe further seuerally trauers & saye without that that any other matter or thinge in the *said* bill mencioned materiall or effectuall to be Answered vnto & not herein & hereby sufficiently Answere vnto by these *defendants* confessed & avoyded trauersed or denied is to these *defendants* knowleges true All *which* matters & things they theis *defendants* are & wilbe ready to averr iustiefy mainteine & proue as this most Honorable Court shall Award And most humbly pray to be dismysed out of this honorable Court with the *said* Costs and charges therin & hereby most wrongfully susteyned./

<Io> walter  
Cressy  
1621

<sup>1</sup>Rits] *rites*

<sup>2</sup>puttinge of] *putting off*

<sup>3</sup>yeard] *followed by one or two illegible letters crossed out*

<sup>4</sup>Ordinary] *the bishop or archbishop*

<sup>5</sup>convented] *summoned to appear before a tribunal*

<sup>6</sup>doethe] *for* doe the

<sup>7</sup>Tobie] *Tobias Matthew, Archbishop of York, 1606-1628*

<sup>8</sup>wch] *for which; abbreviation mark missing*

<sup>9</sup> Robert Birkhead] *one of the few remaining members of the group that had purchased the advowson for Leeds in the 1588. Because this group had not established themselves as a trust, they were vulnerable to the challenge mounted by Sir John Savile and the others noted in the manuscript, who appealed directly to the archbishop on behalf of Alexander Cooke. Birkhead and his associates presented Dr. Richard Middleton, Archdeacon of Cardigan and chaplain to Prince Charles, to be vicar of Leeds, but they had to argue their case for the appointment in the*

*Chancery Court at Westminster. The case, heard by Lord Chancellor Bacon, decided in favour of the appointment of Cooke. See Robert A. Marchant, The Puritans and the Church Courts in the Diocese of York 1560-1642 (London: Longmans, 1960), pp. 33-35.*

<sup>10</sup>defendant] 'f' written over a 'd'

<sup>11</sup>de claro] *the net amount*

<sup>12</sup>Rght] *for Right*

<sup>13</sup>it] 't' written over an 's' or an 'f'

<sup>14</sup> wch tyme] *wch for which, though the mark of abbreviation is missing; tyme followed by a single illegible letter crossed out*

## **mb 1**

### ***Answer of John Hill, clerk***

*Iurat Lune vndecimo die Iunij Anno decimo nono Jacobis Regis<sup>1</sup>*

Harker            The severall Answere of Iohn Hill Clerke one of the defendantes  
                         to the Bill of Complainte of Iohn Metcalfe and Thomas Iackson  
                         Complaynantes

All Advantages of Excepcion to the incertenties vntruthes and Insufficiencye of the said Bill of Complainte to him this defendante now and at all tymes heereafter being saved and reserved ffor plane and dyrect Answere therevnto he saith that he is not guilty or in any wise Culpable of ~~all or any~~ the wicked and enormous offences and <sup>other the</sup> misdemeanours in the said Bill of Complainte mencioned and thereby laide to the charge of him this defendant alone or ioyntly with any others <sup>or of any of them</sup> in such sorte manner and forme as therein and thereby the same are set forth alledged and expressed All *which* matters and things he this defendant is ready to averr maintayne and proue as this most honorable Courte shall awarde And humbly prayeth to be dismissed with his Costes & charges in this behaulfe most wrongfully sustayned/

Cressy  
1621

<sup>1</sup>*Monday 11 June 1621 (19 James I)*

## **Document Descriptions**

### **1594 Archepiscopal Visitation**

York, Borthwick, V.1594/CB, f. 30; 1594; Latin and English; paper; 211 fols., numbered in modern pencil; 200mm x 300mm; well repaired and bound in board



and leather; title on cover, "Visitation Court Book 1594." This was the visitation of Archbishop John Piers in the year of his death, which may explain why he was not personally present at the seventeen sessions across the county. The visitation of Leeds was conducted by John Gibson, commissioner of the Archbishop.

### **1616 Harrison vs. Key et al.**

Kew, The National Archives, STAC 8/167/27; 1621; English and Latin; vellum; 2 membranes; modern pencil foliation in the bottom margins;

mb 1:

mb 2: dorse blank; very good condition. Contains the bill of complaint of John Harrison.

### **1620/21 Cooke vs. Metcalfe and Jackson**

Kew, The National Archives, STAC8/215/6; 16??; English and some Latin; vellum; 3 membranes:

mb 1: 1621; 153mm tall x 446mm across; modern folio number '1' centred in the bottom margin; endorsement in a different pen and ink; dorse blank except for the PRO stamp; good condition. Contains the answer of Joshua Hill, clerk.

mb2: 1621; 628mm x 830mm; modern folio number '2' to the left in the bottom margin; top left corner stained and wrinkled, resulting in the loss of Harker's note of the date; PRO stamp in the left margin; dorse blank; generally good condition, but stained at the top and bottom on the right side; some fading along the fold lines. Contains the demurrer and answers of Alexander Cooke.

mb 3: 1620/21; 1170mm x 740mm; modern pencil folio number '3' bottom left corner; dorse blank except for the PRO stamp, the PRO reference number in modern pencil, and Harker's signed memorandum: "Lune vicesimo nono Ianuarij Anno decimo octavo Iacobi R{egis}"/" (Monday 29 January 18 James I [1621]); fair condition: top left corner stained and partly torn away; bottom right corner torn away, resulting in the loss of parts of six lines; a horizontal tear of 475mm and the stains and fading along this tear hamper the legibility of the text; several other small tears, holes, and wrinkles, only one of which results in damage to the top of a word. Contains the bill of complaint of John Metcalfe and Thomas Jackson.