

*Anno tricesimo primo HENRICI Octavi.*

**A**T a Parliament holden at *Westminster* the eight and twentyeth day of *April*, and there continued vntill the eight and twentyeth day of *June* next following.

C A P. XIV.

*An act for abolishing of diuersitie of opinions in certaine Articles concerning christian religion.*

**W**HERE the Kings most excellent maiestie is by Gods law supream head immediatly vnder him of this whole Church and congregation of *England*, intending the conseruation of the same Church and congregation in a true, sincere and vniforme doctrine of Christs religion, calling also to his blessed and most gracious remembrance, as well the great and quiet assurance, prosperous increase, and other innumerable commodities, which haue euer insued, come and followed of concord, agreement and vnitie in opinions, as also the manifold perils, dangers and inconueniences, which haue heretofore in many places and regions growne, sprung, and arisen, of the diuersities of mindes and opinions, especially of matters of christian religion: and therefore desiring, that such an vnitie might and should be charitably established in all things touching and concerning the same, as the same so being established might chiefly be to the honour of Almighty God, the very Author and fountaine of all true vnitie and sincere concord, and consequently redound to the common-wealth of this his highnesse most noble realme, and of all his louing subjects and other resiants and inhabitants of or in the same: hath therefore caused and commanded this his most high Court of Parliament, for sundry and many vrgent causes and considerations, to be at this time summoned, and also a synod and conuocation of all the Archbishops, Bishops, and other learned men of the Clergie of this his realme, to be in like manner assembled.

II. And forasmuch as in the said Parliament, synod and conuocation, there were certaine Articles, matters and questions proponed and set forth touching christian religion, that is to say,

The fixe Articles.

First, *Whether in the most blessed Sacrament of the Altar remaineth after the consecration, the substance of Bread and Wine, or no.*

Secondly, *Whether it be necessary by Gods law, that all men should communicat with both kinds, or no.*

Thirdly, *Whether Priests, that is to say, men dedicat to God by Priesthood, may by the law of God marrie after, or no.*

Fourthly, *Whether vow of chastitie or widowhead, made to God aduisedly by man or woman, bee by the law of God to be obserued, or no.*

Fifthly

Fiftly, *Whether priuat masses stand with the law of God, and be to be vsed and continued in the Church and congregation of England, as things whereby good christians may and doe receiue both godly consolation, and wholesome benefits, or no.*

Sixtly, *Whether auricular confession is necessary to be retained, continued, vsed and frequented in the Church, or no.*

‘ III. The Kings most royall maiestie, most prudently pondering and considering, that by occasion of variable and sundry opinions and iudgements of the said Articles, great discord and variance hath arisen, as well amongst the Cleargie of this his Realme, as amongst a great number of the vulgar people, his louing subiects of the same: and being in a full hope and trust, that a full and perfect resolution of the said Articles, should make a perfect concord and vnitie generally amongst all his louing and obedient subiects, of his most excellent goodnesse not onely commanded, that the said Articles should deliberately, and aduisedly, by his said Archbishops, Bishops, and other learned men of his Cleargie, be debated, argued and reasoned, and their opinions therein to be understood, declared and knowne, but also most graciously vouchsafed in his own Princeely person, to descend and come vnto his said high court of Parliament and counsel, & there like a Prince of most high prudence, and no lesse learning, opened and declared many things of high learning and great knowledge, touching the said articles, matters & questio’s for an vnity to be had in the same: Whereupo’ after a great & long deliberat & aduised disputatio’ & co’sultatio’ had and made concerning the said Articles, aswell by the consent of the Kings highnesse, as by the assent of the Lords spirituall and Temporall, and other learned men of his Clergie in their Conuocations, and by the consent of the Commons in this present parliament assembled, it was and is finally resolved, accorded and agreed in manner and forme following, that is to say,

First, *That in the most blessed Sacrament of the Altar, by the strength and efficacie of Christs mighty word (it being spoken by the Priest) is present really under the forme of bread and wine, the naturall body and blood of our Sauour Iesu Christ, conceived of the Virgin Mary: and that after the consecration there remaineth no substance of Bread or Wine, nor any other substance, but the substance of Christ, God and man.* Sacrament.

Secondly, *That the Communion in both kinds is not necessary salutem by the law of God to all persons: and that it is to be beleueed and not doubted of, but that in the flesh under the forme of bread, is the very blood, and with the blood under forme of wine, is the very flesh as well apart as though they were both together.* Ad Communion.

Thirdly, *That Priests, after the order of Priesthood receiued, Marriage, as afore, may not marrie by the law of God.*

Fourthly, *That vowes of chastitie, widowhead, by man or woman made to God aduisedly, ought to be obserued by the law of God: and* Vowes.  
that

*that it exempteth them from other liberties of Christian people, which without that they might enjoy.*

**Privat masses.** Fifthly, *That this is meete and necessary, that private Masses be continued and admitted in it the Kings English Church and Congregation, as whereby good Christian people, ordering themselves accordingly, do receive both godly and goodly consolations and benefits: and it is agreeable also to Gods law.*

**Auricular confession.** Sixtly, *That auricular confession is expedient and necessary to be retained and continued, used and frequented in the Church of God.*

**Printing.** ' IV. For the which most godly studie, paine and travell of  
 ' his maiestie, and determination and resolution of the premisses,  
 ' his humble and obedient subjects, the Lords spirituall and  
 ' temporall, and the commons in this present Parliament assem-  
 ' bled, not onely render and give vnto his highnes their most  
 ' high and hearty thanks, & thinke themselves most bound to  
 ' pray for the long continuance of his Graces most royal estate;  
 ' but also being desirous that his most godly enterprise may be  
 ' well accomplished and brought to a full end and perfection;  
 ' and so established, that the same might be to the honor of  
 ' God, and after to the common quiet, vnitie, and concord to  
 ' be had in the whole body of this realme for ever: most  
 ' humbly beseechen his royal majesty, that the resolution and  
 ' determination aboue written of the said Articles, may bee  
 ' established and perpetually perfected by authority of this pre-  
 ' sent Parliament: It is therefore ordeined and enacted by the  
 King our Souereigne Lord, the Lords spirituall and temporall,  
 & the Commons in this present parliament assembled, and by  
 authority of the same, That if any person or persons within  
 this Realme of *England*, or any other the kings dominions,  
 after the xii. day of *July* next comming, by word, writing, im-  
 printing, cipheryng, or in any otherwise, doe publish, preach,  
 teach, say, affirme, declare, dispute, argue, or hold any opi-  
 nion, that in the blessed Sacrament of the Altar, vnder the  
 forme of bread and wine (after the consecration thereof) there  
 is not present really, the naturall body and blood of our Saviour  
 Jesu Christ, conceived of the Virgin *Mary*, or that after the  
 said consecration there remaineth any substance of bread or wine,  
 or any other substance but the substance of Christ, God and  
 man: or after the time aboue said, publish, preach, teach, say,  
 affirme, declare, dispute, argue or hold opinion, that in the  
 flesh, vnder forme of bread is not the very blood of Christ: or  
 that with the blood vnder the forme of Wine, is not the very  
 flesh of Christ, aswel apart as though they were both together:  
 or by any the meanes abouesaid, or otherwise, preach, teach,  
 declare or affirme the said Sacrament to be of other substance  
 than is abouesayd, or by any meanes contemne, deprave or  
 despise the said blessed Sacrament: that then every such person  
 and persons so offending, their aiders, comforters, counsellors,  
 consentors and abettors therein, being thereof convicted in forme  
 vnderwritten by the authority abouesaid, shall be deemed &  
 ad-

adjudged heretikes. And that euery such offence shall be iudged <sup>Heretikes.</sup> manifest heresie : and that euery such offender and offenders shall therefore haue and suffer iudgement, execution, paine and paines of death, by way of burning without any abiuration, <sup>Burning.</sup> Clergie or Sanctuary, to be therefore permitted, had, allowed, admitted or suffered : and also shall therefore forfeit and lose to the Kings highnes, his heires & successors, all his or their honors, manors, castles, lands, tenements, rents, reuerfions, seruices, possessions, & all other his or their hereditaments, goods and chattels, farmes and freeholds, whatsoeuer they be, which any such offender or offenders shall haue at the time of any such offence or offences committed or done, or at any time after, as in cases of high treason.

V. And furthermore be it enacted by the authoritie of this <sup>Preach.</sup> present Parliament, that if any person or persons, after the said xii. day of *July*, preach in any sermon or collation, openly made to the Kings people, or teach in any common schoole, or to other congregation of people, or being called before such iudges, and according to such forme of the law, as hereafter shal be declared, do obstinately affirme, vphold, maintaine or defend, that the communion of the said blessed Sacrament in both kinds, that is to say, in forme of bread and also of wine, is necessary for the health of mans soule, to be giuen or ministred, or ought or should be given or ministred to any person in both kinds : or that it is necessary so to be receiued or taken by any person (other than by Priests being at masse, and consecrating the same :) or that any man after the order of Priesthood received, as aforesaid, may marry and may contract matrimony ; or that any man or woman, which aduisedly hath vowed or professed, or should vow or professe chastitie or widowhead, may marry, or may contract matrimony : or that priuate masses be not lawful or not laudable, or should not be celebrated, had, nor vsed in this realme, nor be not agreeable to the lawes of God : or that auricular confession is not expedient and necessary to be receiued and continued, vsed and frequented in the Church of God : or if any Priest after the said xii. day of *July*, or any <sup>Marriage.</sup> other man or woman which aduisedly hath vowed, or after the said day aduisedly do vow chastitie or widowhood, do actually marry or contract matrimony with any person, that then all and euery person and persons, so preaching, teaching, obstinately affirming, vpholding, maintaining or defending, or making marriage or contract of matrimony as is aboue specified, be and shal be by authority aboue written, deemed and iudged a felon and felons. And that euery offender in the same being there <sup>Felonie.</sup> fore duly conuicted or attainted by the lawes vnder written, shall therefore suffer paines of death as in cases of felony, without any benefit of Clergie, or priuiledge of Church or Sanctuary <sup>Clergie.</sup> to him or her to be allowed in that behalfe, and shall forfeit all <sup>Sanctuary.</sup> his or her lands & goods as in cases of felony. And that it be lawful to the patron or patrons of any maner of benefice, which any such offender at the time of his said conuiction or at-

attaind or had, to present one other Incumbent thereunto, as if the same person so convicted or attainted, had been bodily deceased.

Opinions.

VI. Also bee it enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, That if any person or persons after the said twelfth day of *July*, by word, writing, printing, ciphering, or otherwise then is aboue rehearsed, publish, declare, or hold opinion, that the said communion of the blessed Sacrament in both kinds aforesaid, is necessary for the health of mans soule to bee given or ministred in both kindes, and so ought or should bee giuen and ministred to any person, or ought or should bee so in both kindes receiued or taken by any person, other than by Priests being at Masse, and so consecrating the same as is aforesaid: or that any man after the order of Priesthood receiued as is aforesaid, may marrie or may make contract of matrimonie: or that any man or woman which aduisedly hath made or shall make a vow to God of chastitie or widowhood, may marrie, or may make contract of matrimony: or that priuate Masses be not lawfull or not laudable, or should not be celebrated, had, or vsed; nor be agreeable to the lawes of God: or that auricular confession is not expedient and necessary to be reteined and continued, vsed and frequented in the Church of God every person being for any such offence duely convicted or attainted by the lawes vnderwritten, shall forfeit and lose to the King our Soueraign Lord all his goods and chattels for euer, and also the profits of all his lands, tenements, annuities, fees and offices during his life, and all his Benefices and Spirituall promotions shall be vtterly voyd, and also shall suffer imprisonment of his body at the will and pleasure of our said Soueraign Lord the King. And if any such person or persons being once conuict of any the offences mentioed in this Article as is abouesaid, doe afterward eftsoones offend in any of the same, and be thereof accused, indicted or presented, and conuict againe by authority of the lawes underwritten, that then every such person and persons so being twice conuict and attainted of the said offences, or of any of them, shall be adiudged a felon and felons, and shall suffer iudgement, execution and paines of death, losse and forfeiture of lands and goods, as in cases of felonie, without any priuiledge of Clergie, or Sanctuary to be in any wise permitted, admitted or allowed in that behalfe.

Forf.

Imprison.

Second offence.

Felonie.

Priests.

Marriage.

VII. Be it further enacted by the authority abouesayd, That if any person, which is or hath been a Priest before this present Parliament, or during the time of Session of the same, hath married and hath made any contract of matrimony with any woman, or that any man or woman which before the making of this Act, aduisedly hath vowed chastity or widowhood before this present parliament, or during the Session of the same hath married & contracted matrimony with any person, that then every such marriage and contract of matrimony shall be vtterly void and of none effect. And that the ordinaries, within whose Diocesse or Jurisdictions the person or persons so married or con-

contracted, is or be resident or abiding, shall from time to time make separation and divorces of the said marriages and contracts. Divorces.

VIII. And further it is enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, That if any man which is or hath been Priest as is aforesaid, at any time from or after the said twelfth day of *July* next coming, doe carnally keepe or vse any woman to whom hee is or hath been married, or with whom he hath contracted matrimony, or openly be conuersant, keepe company or familiaritie with any such woman, to the euill example of other persons, euery such carnal use, copulation, open conuersation, keeping of company and familiaritie, be and shal be deemed and adiudged felony, as well against the man as the woman, and that euery such person so offending, shall be enquired of, tried, punished, suffer, lose and forfeit all and euery thing and things as other felons made and declared by this Act, and as in case of felony as is aforesayd. Priestes,  
Lecherie.  
Felonie.

IX. Be it also further enacted by the authoritie aforesaid (not giuing aduantage or detriment to any article afore rehearsed) that if any man which is or hath been Priest, or hereafter shall be, at any time after the said twelfth day of *July*, do carnally vse and accustome any woman, or keepe her as his concubine, as by paying for her boord, maintaining her with money, array, or any other gifts or meanes, to the euill example of other persons, that then euery such offender being thereof duely conuicted or attainted by the lawes mentioned in this Act, shall forfeit and lose all his goods and chattels, Benefices, Prebends, and other Spirituall promotions and dignities, and also shall haue and suffer imprisonment of his body at the Kings will and pleasure. And that euery of the said Benefices, Prebends, and other promotions and dignities, shall be to all intents and purposes vtterly void, as if the said offender had resigned or permuted. And if any such offender or offenders at any time after the said conuiction or attainder, estoones commit, doe, or perpetrate the said offences or any of them next afore rehearsed, and be thereof duely conuicted or attainted by the lawes aforesaid, that then all and euery such offence and offences shall be deemed and adiudged felony, and the offender and offenders therein shall suffer paines of death, and lose and forfeit all his and their goods, lands, and tenements, as in cases of felony, without hauing any benefit of Clergie or Sanctuary. Forf:  
Felonie.

X. And be it further enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, That those women, with whom all and singular the foresayd Priests shall in any of the foresaid wayes haue to doe with, or carnally know as is aforesaid shall haue like punishment as the Priests. Women.

XI. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons at any time hereafter contemne, or contemptuously refuse, denie or absteine to bee confessed at any time commonly accustomed within this Realme and Church of *England*, or contemne or contemptuously refuse, denie or absteine Refuse,

Felonie.

absteine or receiue the holy & blessed Sacrament abouesayd, at the time commonly vsed and accustomed for the same, that then euery such offender being thereof duely convicted or attained by the lawes vnderwritten, shall suffer such imprisonment and make such fine and ranome to the King our Souereigne Lord and his heirs, as by his highnesse or by his or their counsell shall be ordered and adiudged in that behalfe. And if any such offender or offenders at any time or times after the said conuiction or attainder so had, doe estfoons contemne or contemptuously refuse, denie or absteine to be confessed, or to bee communicate in maner and forme aboue written, and be thereof duly conuicted or attained by the lawes vnderwritten, that then every such offence shall bee deemed and adjudged felonie, and the offender or offenders therein shall suffer paines of death, and lose and forfeit all his and their goods, lands and tenements, as in cases of felony.

Commissions.

Wales.

Bishops.

XII. And for full and effectuell execution of the premisses before deuised, ordeined and enacted by this Act: Be it furthermore enacted by the authority of this present Parliament, that immediately after the said twelfth day of *July* next comming, sundry Commissions shall be made from time to time, into euery shire of this Realme and Wales, and in and to such other places within the Kings dominions, as shall please his majesty to be directed to the Archbishop or Bishop of the Diocesse, and to his Chancellor or Commissary, and to such other persons as shall bee named by his highnesse, or by such other as his majesty at his pleasure shall appoint to name the same: which Archbishops or Bishop, his Chancellor or Commissary and other persons so to be named, or three of them at least, whereof the Archbishop or Bishop, or his Chancellor or Commissary to be one, shall hold and keepe their Sessions within the limits of their Commission foure seuerall times of the yeere at the least, or oftner if they shall thinke it expedient by their discretions, and shall haue power and authoritie by vertue of this Act, and their said Commission, as well to take information and accusation by the oaths and depositions of two able and lawfull persons at the least, as to inquire by the oaths of twelve men, of all and singular the heresies, felonies, contempts and other offences aboue written, committed, done or perpetrate within the limits of their Commission. And that euery such accusation and information conteining the matter, names, surnames, and dwelling places of the offenders, and the day, yeere, place and Countie when and wherein their offences were committed, shall be of as good force and effect in the law, as if the matter therein contained had been presented by verdict of twelue men.

XIII. And neuerthelesse it is further enacted, That euery of the said Archbishops and Bishops, & euery of their Chancellors, Commissaries, Archdeacons and other ordinaries hauing any peculiar Ecclesiasticall iurisdiccions within this Realme or in *Wales*, or in any other the Kings dominions, shall haue full power and authoritie by vertue of this Act, as well to enquire

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in their visitations and Senis, as there and elsewhere within their jurisdictions, at any other time or place, to take accusations and informations as is aforesaid, of the heresies, felonies, contempts and offences above mentioned, done, committed or perpetrated within the limits of their jurisdictions and authorities. And that every such accusation, information and presentment so taken or had as is aforesaid, shall be of as good force and effect, as if the matter therein contained had been presented before the Justices of peace in their Sessions. And also that Justices of peace in their Sessions, and every Steward, Understeward, and deputie of Steward of any Leete or Lawday, in their Leete or Lawdayes shall have like power, and authoritie by vertue of this Act, to enquire by the oaths of twelve lawful men, of all and singular the heresies, felonies, contempts and other offences above written, done, perpetrated or committed within the limits of their Commissions and authorities. Visitations.

XIV. And it is also enacted by the authoritie aforesaid, That every such person or persons afore whom any presentment, information, or accusation shall be made and taken as is aforesaid, shall examine the accusers what other witness were by and present at the time of doing and committing of the offence whereof the information, accusation or presentment shall be made, and how many other then the accusers have knowledge thereof. And shall have power and authoritie to binde by recognizance to be taken afore them, as well the said accusers as all such other persons whom the same accusers shall declare to have knowledge of the offences by them presented or informed, every of them in five pounds to the king our Soueraine Lord, to appeare before the Commissioners afore whom the offender or offenders shall bee tried at the day of the triall of such offenders. Justices of P.

XV. And that all and singular indentures, Presentments, Accusations, informations and Recognizances taken and had as is aforesaid, within twenty days next after the taking of the same, shall be certified in due forme by writing vpon parchment by the taker or takers thereof, vnder his or their seals vnto any of the said Commissioners, to be appointed as is aforesaid, within the limits of whose commission the heresies, felonies contempts and offences, whereof any such presentment, indictment, information or accusation shall be taken or had, as is above written, shall bee committed, done and perpetrated. And if any person or persons which hereafter shall happen to take any such accusation, information, presentment or recognizance as is above said, do make default of the certificate thereof contrarie to the forme above rehearsed, that then every person and persons so offending, shall forfeit to our Soueraine Lord the King for every such default, ten pounds. Recogn.

XVI. And it is further enacted by the authority abovesaid, that the said Commissioners or three of them at the least as is abovesaid, by vertue of this Act and their Commission, shall have full power and authoritie to make like processe against every Informations.  
Accusations.



every perion or persons, indicted, presented or accused, in forme as is aboue remembred, as is vsed and accustomed in cases of felonie, and that as well within the limits of their commission, as into all other shires and places of the realme of *Wales*, and other the Kings dominions, as well within liberties as without, and the same processe to be good and effectuell in the law as in cases of felonie. And vpon the appearance of any of the offenders, shall haue full power and authoritie by vertue of this act, and the said commission to here and determine the foresaid heresies, felonies, contempts or other offences, according to the lawes of this realme, and the effects of this Act.

**Commiff.**

XVII. And it is also enacted by the authority abouesayd, that euery of the said commissioners vpon any such accusation, presentment or information, shall endeavour himselfe effectually, without affection, dread or corruption, to apprehend and take the offenders, and after the apprehension of any such offender or offenders, shall haue full power and authority to commit them to ward. And that the said Commissioners, or two of them at the least, shall haue full power and authority to let any person or persons so accused or presented, vpon sufficient sureties by their discretions; to baile for their appearance to be tried according to the tenor, forme and effect of this act.

XVIII. And further it is enacted by the authoritie abouesaid, That if any person or persons which hereafter shall be named and assigned to be commissioner or commissioners as is abouesaid, be accused, indicted or presented, of or for any the offences aboue written, that then all and euery such commissioner or commissioners, so accused, indicted and presented, shall be examined, put to answere, and tried of, and vpon any such offence, according to the tenor and effect of this act, before such other person or persons as it shall please the Kings highnesse to name, assigne and appoint by his gracious Commission to heare and determine the same.

**Challenge.**

XIX. And it is further enacted by the authoritie abouesaid, That no person or persons which at any time hereafter shall be accused, indicted or presented as is abouesaid, shall be admitted to the challenge of any person or persons, which shall be impanelled for the trial of his or their offence for any matter or cause, other then for malice or enmitie, which challenge shall forthwith be tried in like maner as other challenges be vsed to be tried in cases of felony.

**Forreine  
pleas.**

XX. And it is further enacted by the authoritie abouesaid, That all forreine Pleas triable by the Countrey, which at any time hereafter shall bee pleaded by any person or persons hereafter to be arraigned or put to answere vpon any accusation, indictment or presentment, or for any of the offences aboue specified, or of, or for any of them, shall be tried before the same Commissioners afore whom such person or persons shall be arraigned or put to answere, and by the Jurors that shall trie the said offence or offences without any further respect or delay.

**Offcers.**

XXI. And it is further enacted by the authority abouesaid, That

That all Maiors, Shiriffes, Stewards, Bailiffes of liberties, gaolers, and other officers and ministers, of what name, degree or condition soeuer they be, and euery of them, shal from time to time truely and diligently receiue, and serue all and all maner the processe, precepts and commandments to them or any of them by the said Commissioners, or any of them to be made, given or directed, touching or concerning the premisses or any parcell therof, & shal from time to time be obedient and attendant vnto the said Commissioners for the time being, for the due execution of this present act, or of any thing therein contained.

XXII. And it is also enacted, That euery person, which shal **Commission.** be named to be Commissioner in the said Commission, after that he hath knowledge thereof, shal effectually put his diligence, & attendance in and about the execution of the said Commission, & before that he shal take vpon him the execution of the same com'ission, shal take a corporal oth before the Lord Chancellor of *England* for the time being, or before him or them to whom the said Lord Chancellor shal direct the kings writ of *Dedimus potestatem*, to take the same, the tenor of which oath hereafter ensueth.

‘ **Y**E shall sweare that yee to your cunning, wit and Oath.  
‘ power, shall truely and indifferently execute the autho-  
‘ rity to you giuen by the Kings Commission made for  
‘ correction of heretikes and other offenders mentioned in the  
‘ same Commission, without any fauor, affection, corruption  
‘ or malice to be borne to any person or persons,’

As God you helpe and all Saints.

XXIII. And in case that any of the said persons named to **Refuse.** be Commissioners, refuse to take the said oath, or willingly absent or eloine himselfe from the taking of the said oath, then euery such person so offending, and the same offence extreated or certified into the kings Exchequer by the said Lord Chancellor, or by him or them to who’ any such writ of *Dedimus* **Forfeit.** *potestatem*, as is aforesaid, shall be directed, shall forfeit and loose to our said Souereigne Lord the King for euery time so offending, five markes of lawfull money.

XXIV. And it is also enacted by the authority abouesaid, **Commission.** That the said Commissioners and euery of them shall from time to time haue full power and authority by vertue of this Act to take into his or their keeping and possession, all and all manner of bookes, which be and haue beene, or hereafter shall be set **Bookes.** forth, read and declared within this Realme or other the Kings dominions, wherein is or be contained or comprised, any claufe, article, matter or sentence, repugnant or contrary to the tenor, forme or effect of this present act, or any of the articles contained in the same: and the said Commissioners or three of them at the least, to burne or otherwise destroy the said bookes or any part of them, as vnto the said Commissioners or vnto

three of them at the least, shall be thought expedient by their discretions.

Parsons shall  
reade this Act.  
Rights.

XXV. And it is also enacted by the authority aforesaid, That euery Parson, Vicar, Curate, or parish Priest of euery parish Church within this Realme or other the Kings dominions, of his or their deputy, vpon the *Sunday* next after the first day of *September* next ensuing, and so from thenceforth once in euery quarter of the yeere at the least, shall openly, plainly and distinctly read this present Act in the Parish Church, where he is Parson, Vicar, Curat, Parish Priest or deputy, vnto his or their parishioners then assembled together to heare diuine Seruice. And that euery such Parson, Vicar, Curat, or Parish Priest, making default of reading this Act contrary to the forme aforesaid, shall forfeit vnto our said Souereigne Lord, his heires or successors, for euery such default xl. s. sterling, Sauing to all & singular person and persons, bodies politike and corporate, their heires and successors, and to the heires and successors of euery of them (other then al and singular such person and persons that shall be hereafter conuicted or attainted of, or for any of the offences or contempts aboue specified, their heires and successors, and the heires and successors of euery of them) all such right, title, claime, interest, entree, possession, rents, reuerfions, fees, annuities, commons, offices, profits and demands whatsoever, as they or any of them haue, or then at the time of the said conuiction or attainder, had, shall haue, of, in or to any Honours, Castles, Lordships, Manors, Lands, Tenements, Liberties, Franchises, aduoufion and other hereditaments which any such person or persons being so conuicted or attainted, as aforesaid, had or were intituled to haue at the time of their offence or offences committed, or at any time after, and that in as ample maner, forme and condition, to all intents, constructions and purposes, as if this Act had neuer been had or made, any thing contained in this Acte to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Escheats.

Vowe.

XXVI. Provided alway, That the Lords shall not haue nor claime any Escheats of any offender or offenders that shall bee iudged to be burned by authority of this Act.

Age.

XXVII. And because disputations and doubts might per-  
' haps rise hereafter vpon the words in this Act, that is to say,  
' Aduisedly made to God.' Be it therefore provided and enacted by authority aforesaid, these words in the Act, that is to say, Aduisedly made to God for voves of chastity or widowhood, shall bee all onely taken, expounded and interpreted, to bind such person or persons and none other, sauing Priests; to and by the same, which at the time of any of their so vowing, being thereto admitted, were or shall be of the age of one and twenty yeeres or aboue, and then did or doe consent, submit themselves or condescend to the same, and continue or continued in obseruation of it any while after, vnlesse any such person or persons doe or can duely prooue any vnlawfull coercion or

or compulsion done to them or any of them for making of any such vow.

*Anno tricesimo secundo HENRICI Octau.*

**I**N the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the twenty eight of *April*, *Anno tricesimo primo HENRICI octau.*, and there holden and afterward continued by diuers prorogations vntil the twelfth day of *April*, *Anno tricesimo secundo*, *HENRICI octau.* In the last Session thereof begun the said twelfth day of *April*, and there holden vntil the eleuenth day of *May*, and then prorogued vntil the five and twentieth day of the same Moneth of *May*, and then holden and continued vntil the foure and twentieth day of *July*, in the said two and thirtieth yeere of King *HENRY* the 8. at which time it was finished and dissolved.

#### C A P. XXIV.

An Act concerning the lands and goods of the hospitals of *S. Iohns of Ierusalem* in *England* and *Ireland* to be heereafter in the Kings hands and disposition.

**T**HE Lords spirituall and temporall and the commons in this present Parliament assembled, hauing credible knowledge that diuers and fundry the Kings subjects called Knights of the *Rhodes*, otherwise called knights of *Saint Iohns*, otherwise called Friers of the religion of *Saint Iohn of Ierusalem* in *England*, and of a like house being in *Ireland*, abiding in the partes of beyond the Sea, and hauing as well out of this Realme as out of *Ireland* and other the Kings dominions, yeerely great sums of money for maintenance of their liuings, have vnnaturally and contrary to the dutie of their allegiances, sustained and maintained the vsurped power and authoritie of the Bishop of *Rome* lately vsed and practised within this realme and other the Kings dominions, and haue not onely adhered themselves to the saide Bishop being common enemy to the King our Soueraigne Lord, and to this his realme vntruly vpholding, acknowledging and affirming maliciously and traiterously, the same Bishop to be supream and chiefe head of Christs Church by Gods holy word, intending thereby to subvert and ouerthrow the good and godly lawes and statutes of this realme their naturall countrey, made and grounded by authority of holy Church by the most excellent wisdom, policie and goodnes of the kings maiestie with the whole assent and consent of the realme, for the abolishing expulsiu and vtter extincting of the said vsurped power and authoritie, but also haue defamed and slandered as well the Kings maiestie as the noble men, Prelats and other the Kings true and louing Subjects of this realme, for their good and