

Exceptions Against the Etcaetera Oath (1640)

Devonshire Clergy

Transcript

British Library, Harley MS 4931, f. 59r

59r

Exceptions against The new Oath in ye Canons from Devonshire

[*Left margin: 1.*] That they are bound to take it willingly, w[hi]ch they cannot doe w[i]th a safe conscience, & so shall be periured ipso facto.

[*Left margin: 2.*] That they must sweare sincerely, w[i]thout any mentall reservation, yet the (&c) in the oath reserveth, or implieth somewhat more then is expressed, w[hi]ch they must conceiue, or understand.

[*Left margin: 3.*] That they must acknowledge both Doctrine, & Discipline of o[u]r Church to containe all things necessary to salvation, w[hi]ch is not true of the Discipline.

[*Left margin: 4.*] That they are tied never to giue any consent to any altera-tion of the sayd discipline, though the King, & state shoud en-ioyne [the]m [the]r[e]unto.

[*Left margin: 5.*] That the oath crosseth, or contradicteth the Oath of Allegiance, & Supremacy, w[hi]ch they haue allready taken, because if the King by Parliam[en]t shold disanull any part of Ecclesiasticall Discipline, or by a Synod shall alter it, they ar by taking this oath ne-ver to consent.

[*Left margin: 6.*] That it is a flatt band against the power of Parliam[en]ts, because the Clergy can constitute noe canons, much lesse make, or im-pose new Oaths, unles the Parliam[e]t confirme [the]m, & [the]r[e]fore they thinke it a proiect to tr trippe up the heeles of all parliaments for ever.

[*Left margin: 7.*] That it clipps the wings of royall pr[e]rogative, & spirituall su-premacy, barring his Ma[jes]ty, & his Successours from altering any thing in Church Governm[en]t, either by Synod, or Convocation, or Parliam[en]t.

[*Left margin: 8.*] The maine foundation, w[hi]ch the Clergy builds on, is the generall resolution of the Lawyers, That noe Oath can be ordained, nor any authorized to giue it, unles it be first established by Parliament./.

Other manuscript witnesses

- British Library, Additional MS 57929, ff. 55v–56v
- British Library, Harley MS 1219, ff. 155r–164v
- Beinecke Library, Osborn fb157, item 9
- Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 749, item 7
- Bodleian Library, MS Rawlinson A 346, ff. 237r–238r
- Parliamentary Archives, BRY/2, ff. 119r–20x
- The National Archives, SP 16/461, /87 [f.183v]

Manuscript Pamphleteering in Early Stuart England

<https://mpese.ac.uk/t/DevonshireClergyEtcOath1640.html>