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SOME ELIZABETHAN PENANCES IN THE DIOCESE OF ELY

Edited by HUBERT HALL, F.S.A., *Director*.

THE documents printed below from the originals in the possession of Mr. J. W. Ford, J.P., of Enfield Old Park, by whom they were kindly communicated to the Society, have some interest in connexion with an obscure aspect of the ecclesiastical government of the later Tudor and early Stuart periods.

The recent researches of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb have thrown much new light on the local organisation of the parish in a later period. Further researches will doubtless be made by other scholars, for the purpose of amplifying the existing accounts of the procedure of the central and perambulatory ecclesiastical courts, so far, at least, as they affected the temporal and spiritual well-being of the local communities.

This, however, is not the place in which the difficult question of the excesses of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries can be discussed. Materials for an examination of several aspects of the subject will be found in well-known works of reference,¹ but further

¹ Especially G. W. Prothero, *Select Statutes, &c.* (1906); Gibson's *Codex*; Strype's *Whitgift*; Reeve, *History of English Law*; Bishop Stubbs's *Report on Ecclesiastical Courts (Historical Appendix)*; S. and B. Webb, *History of English Local Government*, vol. i.; Abbot Gasquet, *The Parish* ('Antiquary's Books'); Toulmin Smith, *The Parish* (1857); Ayliffe's *Parergon* (1726); Lyndewode's *Provinciale* (1679), Prideaux's *Directions to Churchwardens* (1716), Phillimore, *Ecclesiastical Law* (1873). An important essay on this subject will shortly be published by Mr. S. L. Ware, of the Johns Hopkins University. An interesting view of the discipline enforced by the Puritan clergy is to be found in Camden, Third Series, vol. viii., and some references to the subject will appear in the *Diary of the Rev. Ralph Josselyn* (1625-1685), which will shortly be published in the same series.

details and much instructive evidence would undoubtedly be supplied by a large number of unpublished Consistory Court books and visitations,¹ as well as by such local records as vestry books and churchwardens' accounts,² and public records which have preserved cases of 'secular aid' for the enforcement of ecclesiastical discipline from the reign of Henry III to that of Queen Victoria.³

The documents printed here appear to be citations announcing the sentences of the Consistory Court, notified by the official of the Archbishop of Canterbury during the voidance of the See, between the years 1581 and 1599. These official instruments are not holographs, but are only signed by the official in question. Most of them are signed by Dr. Thomas Legge, the well-known Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and also an advocate in Doctors' Commons, and a Chancery Master. In other cases, however, they are only certified by the notary as true copies from the Act Book. In every case these notices are addressed to the parish clergy, and conclude with the usual requirement of a personal return to be made by the penitents as to the execution of the sentence. It would appear from document No. 5 that the notices were served by the Apparitor or 'Sumner.' The intervention of this officer and the obligation of making the return in person were equally obnoxious to the parishioners, as affording pretexts for extortions, the effect of which upon the stability of

¹ Cf. A. Gibbons, *Calendar of the Ely Episcopal Records*, Historical MSS. Comm. 12th Report, App. IX. p. 378 sq.; *ibid.* Various Reports, vol. i. p. 350, and *passim*, Surtees Society, vol. xxii. &c.

² In addition to those printed in such texts as the Surtees Society, vol. lxxxiv.

³ Cf. *Ecclesiastical Documents* (Chancery and Exchequer), *passim*, and *Significavit* (Petty Bag, Cursitors Records, *passim*). Mr. Ford has in his possession a contemporary MS. (attributed to the Rev. Simon Ford, D.D.), containing the process of confession and absolution of a penitent, who had been prevailed on to take the oath of allegiance to the Pretender in 1715. The offence seems to have been dealt with canonically as a case of 'false swearing.' Mr. Ford has also communicated a MS. *Form of Reconciliation* of a penitent of a still later date, which was apparently the conventional form in use in the middle of the eighteenth century.

episcopal government was of the most serious character. These certificates of execution are appended to the original notices, or are endorsed thereon in the handwriting of the parties making the return. In one case (No. 13) the certificate of the vicar and churchwardens takes the form of an intercession with the vicar-general of the Archbishop of Canterbury, as judge of the Consistory Court, for the remission of any further penance in the case of comperts who have paid a sum of money to the use of the poor; a practice much in favour, but very reluctantly permitted by the ecclesiastical authorities, and definitely forbidden by a Constitution of 1597.

It will be noticed that in every case penance is enjoined for an offence against either religion (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 14) or morality (Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13), no instance occurring here of an offence against ecclesiastical discipline or property, which in most cases were matters of personal concern to the clergy and churchwardens themselves.

The documents are dated between 1586 and 1596, but, with one exception (No. 1), they belong to the period between July 1594 and November 1596. It is noticeable that although in most of these cases a period of many months was allowed to elapse between the sentence and its promulgation,¹ to allow of the canonical performance of the penance during Lent, this practice was not invariably observed, and in some cases the sentence was carried into effect within the space of a few days.² Nothing is known as to the early custody of these documents, which were purchased by Mr. Ford at a public auction, but presumably they came originally from an official collection. The original sentences must have been entered in the Consistory Act Books of the Diocese of Ely, but the Court books are missing between the years 1592 and 1598. The presentments of these cases might possibly be found in the Visitation Books, of which a few still exist for this period, particularly one for the year 1596. No significance appears to be attached to the topographical distribution of the cases.

¹ Nos. 2 to 7, 9, 10. In No. 12 the date of penance is deliberately fixed after Lent.

² Nos. 1, 8, 11 and 14.

27 Januarii
Anno Domini
1586.

1. *A Confession to be made by William Serient of Waterbeache*

The said William Serient shall vppon Sondaye, beinge the xxixth of Januarie next comeinge, imediatly after ye readinge of the Gospell come forth of hys seate in the church of Waterbeache aforesaid vnto the middle alley there, to the place wher the Minister red the same Gospell, and there standing he shall with a lowde voice say and confesse as followeth :—

Good neighbours I acknowledge and confesse that I have offended Almighty God and by my evell example you all, in that I haue not come to the churche in due tyme upon the Sabothe daye, for which I am hartely sorrie; and I humblie beseeche God and earnestly desire you all to pray to God for me, and to forgive and to take example at this my punishement, promisinge by God's grace never to offend in the like againe.

And of the doeing hereof in manere and forme aforesaid he shall vnder the handes of the Minister and Church Wardens there personallie certifie, together with their [*sic*] presents, at Great St^r Maries Church in Cambridge vppon ffridaie¹ beinge the tenthe¹ day of februarie next comeing, and then and there receive such further order herein as shalbe appointed.

RIC: BRIDGWATER.²

[Indorsed] To the Vicar of Waterbeache deliuer this.

[*cut away*] in the paryshe Church of Watterbeach the xxixth day of January aboue wrytten.

per me THO: PAYNE vicarium ibidem

JOHN HASELL

JOHN FFROMENT ⁊ his marke.

2. *A Confession to be made by W^m. Drew of Newton.*

. . . vjth Julij
[Anno] Domini
1594.

The said Drew shall vpon Sundaye, beinge the thirtithe daye of Marche next insewing, ymmediately after or before morninge or euening prayer, in the presence of the Minister and Churchwardens there saye and confesse as followeth :—

Good neighbors I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Almighty God, and by my euill example you all, for that I suffered Richard Peareson my servant to carrie a sheepeeracke to the pasture on the Sabboth daie before morninge praire, for which I am verie

¹ The dates were left blank and were subsequently filled in, as in the case of the remaining documents.

² Probably Richard Bridgwater, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and one time Public Orator and Proctor.

hartelie sorie ; and I aske God and you all most hartelie forgiuenes for the same promising by God's helpe never to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And of the doing hereof the saied partie shall vnder the [*sic*] Minister and Churchwardens there personallie certefie, together with thes presentes, vpon Tewsdaie, beinge the xvth daie of Aprill next cominge, at Trinitie parishe Church in Ely, and then and there receaue suche further [order] herein as shalbe appointed.

THOMAS LEGGE.¹

[Indorsed] To my lovinge frend Mr. Lawrence, Parson of Newton.

We whose names are under wrytten doe testifye that the saide William Drewe made confession of his fault in suche forme and manner as is above sett downe, Aprilis 13^o 1595.

W. LAWRENCE parson of Newton.

JOHN BOSWORTHE churchwarden.

WILLM. HODGSON

BARTHOLOMEW JOHNSON } parisheoners.

3. *A Confession to be made by John Tims of Sutton.*

The saied partie shall vpon Sundaie, beinge the xxxth daie of March next cominge, come forth of his seate in the parishe church of Sutton aforesaid, immediatlie after the readinge of the Gospell, into the middle alley there, and with a loude voice saie and confesse as followeth viz. :—

[xx] iiii^{to} die
mensis Julij
[A]nno Domini
1594.

Good neighbors I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Allmightie God and by my euill example you all, for that I suffered my horse and carte to worke vpon Easter Mundaie in the morninge praire time, and also for that I haue bene a common swearer, for which I am verie hartelie sorie, desiryng God and you all most hartelie forgiuenes for the same, promisinge by God's helpe neuer to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And of the doing hereof the saied partie shall, vnder the handes of the Minister and Churchwardens there, personallie certifie, together with thes presentes, upon the xvith daie of Aprill next cominge, at Trinitie parishe Church in Ely, and then and there receaue suche further [*sic*] herein as shalbe appointed.

THOMAS LEGGE.

[Indorsed] To my lovinge frend the Vycare or Curate of Sutton thes.

This confession was made by John Tymes the xxxth day of March 1595.

Witnesseth HEN^R. FAUX.

¹ See Prefatory Note.

4. *Parte of the pennance Inioyned vnto Johane Andrewe alias Vertue
Anderson of Trinity parishe in Elye.*

[x]xiiijth die Julij
[Anno] Domini
1594.

The saied penitent shall vpon Sundaie, beinge the xxxth day of Marche next comminge, clothed in a white sheete downe to the grownd and hauinge a white wande in her hand, resort vnto the parish church porch of Ely Trinitie aforesaied, and there shall stande from the second peale to morninge praire vntill the-readinge of the second lesson, dessiringe people that passe by her into y^e church to pray God for her and to forgiue her; at which time y^e Minister there shall comme downe to this penitent and fetch her into y^e church with y^e psalme of *Miserere* in English, and place her in the middle alley there apart from all other people, where she shall penitently kneele vntill y^e readinge of y^e ten commaundementes, at which time y^e Minister there shall come to this penitent and cause her to say and confesse as followeth, viz. :—

Good people I acknowledge and confesse y^t I haue offended All-mightie God and by my euill example you all, for that I haue broken his Divine lawes and commaundementes in committinge yt most shamefull and abhominable sin of adultrie or fornicacion, for which I am most hartily sory, and I aske God and you all most hartily forgiuenesse for the same, promisinge by Godes helpe never to offend hereafter in y^e like againe.

And at y^e end of this confession the first day y^e Minister to reade y^e homely against adultrie or fornicacion, and y^e third daie to reade y^e homely of repentance, y^e penitent standinge by all the while; and in like manner and forme in euery point and condicion as aboue is prescribed she shall do two other Sundaies or holydaies next ensuinge after y^e first; and of the penitent doinge hereof vppon all y^e saied three seuerall Sundaies or holy[daies] she shall vnder y^e handes of y^e Minister and Churchwardens there personally certifi, togeather with these presentes, the xvith daie of Aprill next comminge, at Trinitie parish Church in Ely aforesaied, and then and there receiue such further order herein as shalbe appointed.

THOMAS LEGGE.

[Indorsed] To the Curate of Trinitye parishe in Elye thes.

Penitentiam suam egit hæc mulier secundum modum et formam
suprascriptos die et loco supradictis, teste RICHARD FFISON Curato
ibidem.

5. *Parte of [the] pennance Inioyned vnto Hellen Lambe of Chattres widdowe.*

The saied penitent shall vppon Sundaie, beinge the xxth [*sic*] daie of Marche next comminge, clothed in a white sheete downe to the grounde, and haueinge a white wande in her hand, resorte vnto the parish church porche of Chattres aforesaied and there stand from the second peale to morninge praire vntill the reading of the second lesson, desiringe the people that passe by her into the church to prairie to God for her and to forgiue her ; at which time the Minister there shall come to this penitent & fetch her into the church, with the psalme of *Miserere* in English, & place her in y^e middle alley there aparte from all other people, where she shall penitently kneele vntill the readinge of the ten commaundementes at which time the Minister there shall come to this penitent & cause her to saie & confesse as followeth, viz. :—

xxiiiij^{to} die Julij
Anno Domini
1594.

Good people I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Almightye God and by my euill example you all, for that I have broken the Divine lawes and commaundementes in committinge the most shamefull and abhominable sin of adultry or fornication, for which I am most hartily sorry, and I aske God and you all most hartily forgiueness for the same, promisinge by Godes help neuer to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And at the end of this confession the first daie to reade the homely against adultrie or fornicacion and the third daie to reade the homely of repentaunce, the penitent standinge by all the while, and in like manner and forme in euery point and condicion as above is prescribed she shall do two other Sundaies or holy daies next ensuinge after the first ; and of the penitent doinge hereof vppon all the said three seuerall Sundaies or holy daies she shall, vnder the handes of the Minister and Churchwardens there, personallie certifie, togeather with these presentes, the xvith daie of Aprill next comminge, at Trinitie parishe Church in Ely, and then and there receave such further order herein as shalbe appointed.

THOMAS LEGGE.

[Indorsed] To my lovinge frend the Vicar of Chattres giue these.

This penitent Hellen Lambe hathe two seuerall tymes viz. the vjth daye of Aprill and the xiiijth daye of Aprill, beinge Sondayes, performed that part of penance inioyned vnto her in the manner and forme above written.

Witnesses hereof THO: SALE Minister

THOMAS REYNOLD }
JOHN READE. } churchwardens

She could not performe it vpon the xxxth daye of March because it was the xxxjth daye before I receaved your Bills from the Apparitor.

6. *A Confession to be made by Daniell Lardge of Trinitie parishe in Ely, Henrie Barker, Robert Stennell and Wm. ffowler of the same parishe.*

xxiiij^o die mensis
Julij Anno
Domini 1594.

The saied parties shall vpon Sundaie, beinge the xxxth daie of March next comminge, in the parishe church of Ely Trinitie aforesaid, come forth of there seates in the middle alley there, imediatelie after the readinge of the Gospell, and there shall stand and with lowde voyces saie and confesse as followeth viz. :—

The Confession of Daniell Large.

Good neighbors I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Allmightie God and by my euill example you all, for that I did harbor Joane Andrewe, alias Vertue Andersonn, in my howse, she beinge deliuered of child there, doing thereby as much as [in] me did lie to cloake that her filthie acte, for which I am verie hartelie sorie desiringe God and you all moste hartie forgiueness for the same promisinge by God's helpe neuer to offend hereafter in the like againe.

The Confession of Henrie Barker.

Good neighbors I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Allmightie God and by my euill example you all, for that I did plaie at Cardes vpon the Sabboth daie in Eveninge praire time for which I am hartelie sorie, and I aske God and you all most hartelie forgiuenes for the same, promisinge by Godes helpe neuer to offend hereafter in the like againe.

The Confession of Robert Stennell and Wm. ffowler.

Good neighbors wee acknowledge and confesse that we haue offended Allmightie God and by our euill example you all, for that we did abuse our [*sic*] in drinke vpon the Sabboth daie, for which wee are verie hartlie sorrie, and we aske God and you all most hartie forgiuenes for the same promisinge by Godes helpe neuer to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And of the doinge hereof the saied parties shall vnder the [*sic*] Minister and Churchwardens there personallie certifie, together with these presentes, vpon Wednesdaie beinge the xvith daie of Aprill

next cominge, at Trinitie parishe Church in Ely and then and there receaue suche further order herein as shalbe appointed.

THOMAS LEGGE.

[Indorsed] To the Curate of Trynitie parishe in Elye thes.

Danyell Large and Henry Barke[r]¹ haue performed their confes- syon which they were enjoyned, in the parish church of Elye Trinitye, the vjth daye of Apryll. Per me RICHARDUM FYSON curate.

JOHN GOODRYCKE.

7. *A Confession to be made by Rychard Carnaby of Wysbitche S^t. Peters.*

The saied partie shall vpon Sundaie, being the xxxth daie of Marche next cominge, in the parishe church of Wisbich aforesaied, imediatlie before or after morninge or eveninge praire, before the Minister and Churchwardens and fower or fiue of the most substantiall men of the saied [*sic*]¹—saie and confesse as followeth viz. :—

xxvj^{to} die Julij
Anno Domini
1594.

Good neighbors I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Almightye God and by my euill example you all, for that I did comytt fornicacion with my wife before wee were married, for which I am most hartelie sorie, and I aske God and you all most hartelie forgiuenes for the same, promisinge by God's helpe never to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And of the doing hereof the saied partie shall, vnder the hands of the Minister and Churchwardens there, personallie certifie, together thes presentes, at the next courte at Ely or thereaboutes holden, and then and there receaue suche further order herein as shalbe appointed.

THOMAS LEGGE.

[Indorsed] To my verie lovinge frend Mr. Mathewe Champion Vicar of Wisbich giue thes.

Richard Carnaby hath made his confession accordingly, on Sonneday the vith of April 1595, in the parysh church of Wysbich S^t. Peter.

Ita testamur

MATT: CHAMPION

ARTHUR DAKTENN (?)

THOMAS PIGGE

¹ It will be observed that Robert Stennell and William Fowler are not included in this certificate.

8. *A Confession to be made by Elizabeth Bowltell of
Badburham.*

Decimo sexto
die Mensis Maij
1595.

The saied partie shall vpon Sundaie, beinge the xxvth daie of Maie now instant, in the parishe church of Badburham aforesaid come forth of her seate into the middle alley there, imediatlie after the reading of the Gospell, and there shall stand and with a lowde voice shall saie and confesse as followethe viz. :—

Good neighbours I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Allmightie God and by my euill example you all, for that I did make discords betwene neighbor and neighbor, and allso I haue beene a pratlinge gossip goinge from one howse to another to tell tales and lies, for which I am most hartelie sorie, desiringe God and you all most hartelie forgiuenes for the same, promisinge by God's help neuer to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And at the end of this confession the said partie shall vnder the handes of the Ministers and Churchwardens there personallie certifie, together with these presentes, vpon Fridaie beinge the xxxth daie of Maie nowe instant, at Great S^t. Maries Church in Cambridge, and then and there to receaue suche further order herein as shalbe appointed.

Concordat cum Actis Curie

Ita testor THO. AMY ¹ Notarius publicus

[Indorsed] To my lovinge frend the Curate of Badburham giue thes.

THOMAS FYELDE

The marke + of JOHN THURGAR the churchwarden

JOHN LONDON

ROBART REYNOT

9. *Parte of pennance Inioyned vnto Margaret Stannard of Trinytie
parishe in Elye.*

Quinto Augusti
Anno Domini
1595.

The saied penitent shall vppon Sunday, beinge the xxijth daie of February next cominge, clothed in a white sheete downe to the grownde and hauinge a white wande in her hand, resorte vnto the church porch of Trinity parish in Ely aforesaid, and there shall stand from the second peale to morninge praire vntill the reading of the second lesson, desiringe the people that passe by her into the church to praire to God for her and to forgiue her; at which time the minister there shall comme downe to this penitent and fetch her into the church with the psalme of *Miserere* in Englishe, and place her in the

¹ Probably a relative of Sir John Amye, a Chancery Master at this date, like Dr. Thomas Legge.

middle alley there aparte from all other people, where she shall penitently kneele vntill the readinge of the ten commaundementes, at which time the minister there shall comme to this penitent and cause her to saie and confesse as followeth viz. :—

Good people I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Almighty God and by my euill example you all, for that I haue broken his devine lawes and commaundementes in committinge the moste shamefull and abhominable sin of adultrie or fornicacion, for which I am most hartily sory, and I aske God and you all most hartily forgiveness for the same, promisinge by Godes help neuer to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And at the ende of this confession, the first daie the minister to reade the homely against adultrie or fornicacion, and the third daie to read the homely of repentaunce, the penitent standinge by all the while, and in like manner and forme, in every pointe and condicion as aboue is prescribed, shee shall do two other Sundaies or holidais next ensuinge after the first, and of the penitent doing hereof vpon all the saied three seuerall Sundaies or holidais she shall vnder the hands of the Minister and Churchwardens there personallie certifie, together with these presentes, the tenth daie of Marche next at Trinity parishe Church in Ely, and then and there receaue such further order herein as shalbe appointed.

Concordat cum Decreto domini Iudicis

Ita testor THO: AMY, Notarius Publicus.

[Indorsed] To my lovinge frend Mr. ffeson Curate of Trinity parishe in Ely giue thes.

Hec mulier suam egit penitentiam secundum modum et formam suprascriptos die et loco supradictis, per me RICHARDUM FFISON curatum ibidem.

10. *A confession to be made by Katharine Oliver of Parson Droue the wife of W^m. Oliuer.*

The saied partie shall vpon Sondaye, being the xxijth daye of February next comminge, come forth of her seate in the parish church of Parson Droue aforesaid into the middle allye there, ymmediately after the readinge of the gospell, and with a loude voice shall saye and confesse as followeth viz. :—

Good neighbors I acknowledge and confesse that I have offended Almighty God and by my euill example you all, for that I have bene a scoulder and a slaunderouse person and a sower of strife amongst my neighbors to the breach of Charity, for which I am moste hartely

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[S]eptimo
Augusti [Anno]
Domini 1595.

sory, and I aske God and you all moste hartely forgivenes for the same, promiseinge by God's helpe never to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And of the doinge thereof shee shall, vnder the hands of the Minister and Churchwardens there, personally certifie, togeather with these presentes, vpon Tewsday, beinge the nineth of March next, at Trinity parishe Church in Elye, and then and there receive such further order herein as shalbe appointed.

Concordat cum Actis Curie

Ita testor THO. AMY Notarius publicus

[Indorsed] To my lovinge frend the Curate of Parson Droue giue thes.

M^d the wyfe of William Oliver hath done such pennance and made such Confession as was inioyned vnto her by these presentes the daye and month above said, in wytness where of wee haue set to our handes the last daye of February in anno 1595.

per me CHRISTOFERUM TIMMYE clericum

WILLIAM JOHNSON. } Churchwardens
 EWARDE ✓ TOMYSON. }

II. *Parte of pennaunce inioyned vnto Elizabeth Farnam of Stapleford.*

Decimo septimo
 (sic) die mensis
 Octobris Anno
 Domini 1595.

The sayed penitent shall vpon Satterday next commeinge, beinge the xvth day of October now instant, cloathed in a white sheete downe to the grownde, with a white wand in her hand, and haveinge papers pinned, the one vpon her breste and the other vpon her backe, declaringe her abhominable offence, resort vnto the bull ringe in Cambridge and there shall stand from ten of the clocke in the forenone vntill one of the clocke in the afternone of the same day, desiringe the people that so shall behould her to pray to God for her & to forgive her; which beinge penitently done, she shall departe, cloathed as is aforesayed, vnto the howse which she came forth of. And vpon Sunday next followinge she shall resort vnto the Church porch of Stapleford aforesayed, and penitently shall stand, cloathed as aforesayed & haveinge a white wand in her hand and papers pinned as aforesayed, from the second peale to morninge prayer vntill the readinge of the second lesson, desiringe the people as they passe by her into the church to pray to God for her and to forgive her. At which time the Minister there shall go to this penitent and fetch her into the Church with the psalme of *Miserere* in Englishe and place her in the middle ally there aparte from all other people, where she shall penitently kneele vntill the readinge of the Gospell, at th'end wherof

the minister there shall cause this penitent to say and confesse as followeth, viz. :—

Good neighbors I acknowledge & confesse that I have offended Almighty God & by my evill example you all, for that I have broken his divine lawes & commaundementes in committing the most shamefull & abhominable sinne of fornicacion, for which I am moste hartely sorry, & I aske God & you all moste hartely forgiveness for the same, promising by God's grace never to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And at th'end of this confession, the firste day the Minister to reade the homely againste adultry or fornicacion, and the second day to reade the homely of repentance, the penitent standinge by all the while, & in like manner & forme & in every point & condition as above is prescribed she shall doe one other Sunday or hollyday next insewing after the first. And of the penitent doeing hereof vpon bothe the sayed Sundayes or holydayes, she shall vnder the hands of the Minister & Churchwardens there personally certify, together with these presentes & also the sayed papers, vpon Friday beinge the laste day of October, at Greate S^t. Maries Church in Cambridge, & then & there receave such further order herein as shalbe apointed.

Concordat cum actis Curie. Ita testor.

THO: AMY Notarius Publicus.

[Indorsed] To my lovinge frend Mr. Lee viccar of Stapleford give these.

Elizabeth Farnam hath done these partes of pennaunce in such maner and at such tymes as ys here set downe & appointed.

Witnesses hereof,

WILLM: LEE Minister

EDWARD GILLIBROND

THOMAS BARNES

} Churchwardens

12. *A confession to be made by John Aspland of Witcham.*

The saied partie shall vpon Sonday beinge the iiijth day of July next comminge forth of his seate in the parishe church of Witcham aforesaid into the middle allye there ymmediately after the readinge of the Gospel and there shall stand and with a loud voice shall say and confesse as followeth viz :—

Good neighbors I acknowledge and confesse that I have offended

¹ The document is arranged in this order of date in the collection; but it is now impossible to determine whether the year should be 1595 or 1596.

almighty god and by my evil example you all for that I have used to sleepe in the church for which I am moste hartely sory and I aske god and you all moste hartely forgivenes for the same promiseinge by God's helpe never to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And of the doeing hereof hee shall vnder the handes of the Minister and Churchwardens there personally certifie together with these presentes vpon Munday beinge the xxijth of July next at Trinity parishe Church in Ely and then & there receive such further order therein as shall be appointed.

Concordat cum actis Curie

Ita testor THO: AMY Notarius publicus.

Jhon Aspland hath done the penance prescribed in Wicham Church y^e day & yere above written.

By me JHON ALLEN Churchwarden.

WILLM GILL.

GORGE WRIGHT.

On the dors: To my lovinge frend the Vycar of Witcham or to his Curate there giue thes.

13. *To the right worshipfull M^r Dr Cowell, Judge of the Consistorie Courte of the Bishoppricke of Elye.*

These are to signifie vnto your worship that whereas this bearer Edward Godwin of our parishe of Sawston and Bridget nowe his wyfe have committed fornicacion together before their marriage, they have for and in satisfaction of their said offence given and paid into the hands of vs the Churchwardens of Sawston aforesaid whose names are herevnder written to the vse of the poore of our said parishe the full summe of sixe shillings and eight pence of good and lawfull monie of England, humblye intreateinge your worshipp that the said Edward and Brigget maye be freed from further trouble and discharged the Courte. In witnesse whereof we the Minister and Churchwardens of Sawston aforesaid have hereunto subscribed¹ our names this xxxth of Maye anno domini 1596.

EDWARDUS ELIOT Vicarius Ecclesiæ de Sawston

JOHN + JEFFREY }
JOHN ff GIBSON } Churchwardens

14. *A confession to be made by Thomas Sowthe of Borowgreene.*

The saied partie shall vpon Sonday, beinge the xiiijth day of November next comminge, come forth of his seate in the parish

¹ of MS.

. . . . Novem-
bris . . . Domini
1596.

church of Borowgrene aforesayed into the middle ally there, ymediately after the readinge of the Gospel, and there shall stand and with a loude voice shall say and confesse as followeth viz :—

Good neighbors I acknowledge and confesse that I haue offended Almighty God and by my evill example you all, for that I did mowe on Sunday after eveninge prayer, in harvest time, for which I am moste hartely sory ; and I aske God and you all most hartely forgiuenes for the same, promiseinge by God's helpe never to offend hereafter in the like againe.

And of the doeing hereof hee shall, vnder the handes of the Minister and Churchwardens there, personally certifie, together with these presentes, the xixth of November now instant at Greate St^r. Maries Church in Cambridge, and then and there receiue such further order here in as shall be appointed.

Yf the sayed Thomas Southe doe performe the order above set downe in the presence of M^r Garthside and the Churchwardens and Questmen before or after morninge or eveninge prayer M^r Chancellor wilbe content to admit thereof.

Concordat cum decreto domini Judicis

Ita testor THO: AMY, Notarius publicus

[Indorsed] To my lovinge frend Mr. Garthside at his parsonage of Boroughegrene give these.

My neighbor South hath performed all according to the direction wythin writen in the presence of vs appointed to heare the same.

by me FFRANCIS GARTHSYD rector

LAWRENCE DISBOROW	} churchwardens
and THOMAS BRYDG	
ROBERT GAWLET	} questmen
and RYCHARD CUTLE	