

now agreeable nor suited to later times. It appears, also, that some were wrongfully received; wherefore it might please the gentleness of the pontificate now to mitigate and release them, since such change would not break the unity of the Church. For many traditions have in process of time, been changed, as the canons themselves testify. But if it cannot be obtained that those observations should be released which cannot, without sin, be complied with; we must needs follow the rule of the apostles, which commands rather to obey God than men. Peter forbids bishops to be lords and emperors over the Church. Now, it is not intended by us to take away jurisdiction from the bishops, but this one thing we require of them, that they would suffer the Gospel to be purely taught, and that they would release a few certain ordinances, which cannot be observed without sin. But if they will not remit or remit or release any thing, let them look to their charge how they shall render their account to God, in that they, by reason of their obstinacy, are the cause of their schism.

#### CONCLUSION.

The foregoing are the principal subjects of dispute between us. It were indeed easy to enumerate many other abuses and errors, but for the sake of brevity we have omitted them. Much complaint, for example, has existed concerning indulgences, pilgrimages, and the abuse of excommunication. The clergy have also had endless disputes with the monks about confession and numberless other subjects. These things we have omitted, in order that those of greater importance may be the more carefully weighed.

(Signed.) JOHN, the Elector of Saxony,  
 GEORGE, Earl of Brandenburg.  
 ERNEST, Duke of Luneberg.  
 PHILIP, Landgrave of Hesse.  
 JOHN FREDERICK, Duke of Saxony.  
 FRANCIS, Duke of Luneberg.  
 WOLFGANG, Prince of Anhalt.  
 THE SENATE AND MAGISTRACY OF NUREMBURG.  
 THE SENATE OF REUTLINGEN.