

And also for heresy, or teaching, or maintaining heretical doctrines; or for teaching or inculcating doctrines, contrary to those of the Church; such teaching or maintaining, being by way of writing, or printing, or preaching, or public teaching, or circulating books containing unsound doctrines.

§ 2.

If there is reason for supposing, from public rumour or otherwise, that a clergyman has been guilty of any of the foregoing ecclesiastical offences, the Bishop of the Diocese, within which the offence is alleged or reported to have been committed, on the application of any party complaining thereof, or of his own mere motion, may summon the party to appear before him, in private, and, upon confession of the offence alleged, may pronounce such sentence as may be proper.

If the Bishop should consider the matter to be of such a character or magnitude as to require it to be placed on record, in such case the accusation shall be reduced to a definite form: there shall be added the confession signed by the party, and the same, with the sentence pronounced, shall be recorded in like manner as other sentences are hereinafter directed to be recorded.

If the accused party shall not admit or confess the offence alleged, and the Bishop be of opinion that there are grounds for further inquiry, the Bishop may issue a commission under his hand and seal to *five* presbyters, of whom the archdeacon,

shall form three, who shall make inquiry into the truth of the accusations, and report the facts, as well as the evidence taken, and whether, in their opinion, there be sufficient *prima facie* evidence instituting for further proceedings.

In such case, the accusation shall be reduced to form in writing, and notice of the time when, and place where, every such meeting of the commission shall be holden, shall be given in writing, to the party accused, at least twenty days before the first meeting; and it shall be lawful for the party accused, or his agent, to attend the proceedings of the commission, and to examine or cross-examine any witnesses; and such preliminary proceedings shall be in private, unless the party accused shall desire otherwise.

Should the party accused neglect or refuse to appear before the said commission, his default, after good and sufficient service, shall be placed on record, and the commissioners shall proceed with their inquiry *ex parte*.

Upon the receipt of the report of the commissioners, the Bishop shall take such further proceedings therein, as the case may, in his judgment, require.