

her husband to fight his subjects into a belief that the hierarchy of England was of divine origin, and that the king reigned absolutely by *jure divino*, or by a divine right.

The necessity of receiving assistance from Scotland in carrying on the war, and the condition on which the Scots parliament agreed to lend that assistance, obliged the English parliament to pass an ordinance for the assembling of divines to determine on a uniformity of doctrine and discipline for the two nations, or to establish a system of doctrine and discipline for the church of England that might assimilate it to the views of the kirk of Scotland.

The ordinance bears date June 12, 1643, and is thus entitled, "An ordinance of the Lords and Commons in parliament, for the calling of an assembly of learned and godly divines and others, to be consulted with by the parliament, for settling the government and liturgy of the church of England, and for vindicating and clearing the doctrine of the said church from false aspersions and interpretations."

The ordinance ordered one hundred and twenty reverend gentlemen, ten peers, and twenty commoners of illustrious birth, whose names are all mentioned in the ordinance, and now lying before me, to assemble at Westminster, in the chapel called king Henry VII's chapel, on the 1st of July, 1643. Forty of those persons were to be sufficient for doing business, or to compose a competent quorum for the purposes of parliament. They were prohibited from introducing any topic of discussion from among themselves, and were to be confined "to such matters and things concerning the liturgy, doctrine, and discipline of the church of England, as shall be proposed by either or both houses of parliament, and no other." They were "not to divulge their opinions or advices touching the matters aforesaid, either by printing, writing, or otherwise, without consent of parliament. If any difference of opinion arose, they were to represent it to parliament, with their reasons, that the house might give further directions. Four shillings per day were allowed for each one during his attendance. Dr. William Twisse of Newbury was appointed prolocutor; and, in case of sickness or death, the parliament reserved to themselves the choice of another." The ordinance concludes with the following proviso: "Provided always, that this ordinance shall not give them, nor shall they in this assembly assume or exercise any jurisdiction, power, or authority ecclesiastical whatsoever, or any other power than is herein particularly expressed." The divines were chosen out of such lists as the knights and burgesses brought in out of their several counties, from each of which the parliament chose one, or at most two.

"Before the assembly sat, the king, by his royal proclamation of June 22, forbade their meeting, for the purpose therein mentioned, and declared that no acts done by them ought to be received by his subjects. He also threatened to proceed against them with the utmost severity of the law. Nevertheless, sixty nine assembled in king Henry VII's chapel the first day, according to summons, not in their canonical habits, but chiefly in black coats, and bands in imitation of the foreign protestants. Few of the episcopal divines assembled; and