

mean by *nominavit*, elected, but simply, styled or called the officers of the church—Bishops. But in order to understand Jerome's meaning, let us take an illustration of an election—that of St. Athanasius to this very See of Alexandria. It took place the year after the Council of Nicæa. Jerome was born five years after this election, and must have known all about it, as it led to such wonderful results. The Arians, who expelled St. Athanasius from his See, objected to his election, on the ground that the people had not been consulted. The Bishops accordingly met in Synod, wrote a letter to all the Bishops of the Catholic Church, and with great vehemence denied the existence of the alleged defect. "Because, say they, the whole multitude and the whole people of the Catholic Church, as if with one mind and body assembled, with shouts and vociferations demanded that Athanasius be given as Bishop to the Church."* *Quod omnis multitudo omnisque populus Catholicæ ecclesiæ tanquam ex unâ anima et corpore congregati, clamoribus et vociferationibus postularent Athanasium ecclesiæ Episcopatum dari.* They go on to say, †"That the people implored of Christ in public prayer that their request might be granted, and conjured us many days and nights, that we should accede to their wishes and in the meantime would not depart from the Church, nor allow us the possibility of departing." *Idque publicis votis a Christo expetisse, nosque ut faceremus per multos dies ac noctes jurejurando obtestatos fuisse; cum interea nec ipsi ab Ecclesiâ discederent, nec nobis discedendi facultatem permetterent.* This expulsion of St. Athanasius and the election in his stead of Gregory, at Antioch, led to the calling of a Synod at Rome by Pope Julius. In a letter written to the leaders of the Arian party at Antioch, he says, "Where is the ecclesiastical Canon or Apostolic tradition of this kind, that when the Church is at peace and the Bishops in agreement with Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, you should send Gregory a foreigner and a stranger, neither baptized at Alexandria, nor known to the people, nor demanded by the Presbyters, and make him Bishop in Antioch?" Julius here incidentally tells us what in his opinion constituted a Canonical election at Alexandria, viz., the

* The Egyptian Bishops might have defended St. Athanasius better by affirming that St. Mark had given the right of election to the Presbyters, had any such right existed.

† Magd. Cent. Tom. 2, p. 1029.