

exaction. Sometime after a command came from the pope to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Lincoln and Salisbury, to appoint 300 Roman subjects to the next vacant benefices on pain of being suspended from conferring all benefices.

In 1244 the pope sent an Emissary into England with a letter to the Abbots of the Diocese of Canterbury, stating that the sums drawn by the late pope from England had been insufficient to discharge his debts. He therefore ordered them to aid him with the sums of money which his agents should mention within a given time. The nuncio was supplied with many bulls, in order to bestow the best benefices, or their revenues, on the pope's relatives. In 1245, the ambassador of the King of England in the Council of Lyons, read a letter addressed by the kingdom of England to the pope, complaining that his predecessors wishing to enrich the Italians, who had become excessively numerous, had given them such a multitude of benefices in England, that their income amounted to 50,000 marks of silver, a greater revenue than the king possessed; that these Italians, indifferent to the souls entrusted to them, and only desirous of the revenues of their benefices, lived abroad; that the nuncio had conferred all vacant benefices, worth thirty marks, upon Italians, and provided that on their death others should succeed, to the destruc-