

THE power and authority of a bishop, besides the administration of certain holy ordinances peculiar to that sacred order, consist principally in inspecting the manners of the people and clergy, and punishing them, in order to reformation, by ecclesiastical censures. To this purpose he has several courts under him, and may visit at pleasure every part of his diocese. His chancellor is appointed to hold his courts for him, and to assist him in matters of ecclesiastical law; who, as well as all other ecclesiastical officers, if lay or married, must be a doctor of the civil law, so created in some university<sup>c</sup>. It is also the business of a bishop to institute, and to direct induction, to all ecclesiastical livings in his diocese.

ARCHBISHOPRICKS and bishopricks may become void by death, deprivation for any very gross and notorious crime, and also by resignation. All resignations must be made to some superior<sup>d</sup>. Therefore a bishop must resign to his metropolitan; but the arch-bishop can resign to none but the king himself.

II. A DEAN and chapter are the council of the bishop, to assist him with their advice in affairs of religion, and also in the temporal concerns of his see<sup>e</sup>. When the rest of the clergy were settled in the several parishes of each diocese (as hath formerly<sup>f</sup> been mentioned) these were reserved for the celebration of divine service in the bishop's own cathedral; and the chief of them, who presided over the rest, obtained the name of *decanus* or dean, being probably at first appointed to superintend *ten* canons or prebendaries.

ALL antient deans are elected by the chapter, by *conge d'eslire* from the king, and letters missive of recommendation; in the same manner as bishops: but in those chapters, that were founded by Henry VIII out of the spoils of the dissolved monasteries, the deanery is donative, and the installation merely by the king's

<sup>c</sup> Stat. 37 Hen. VIII. c. 17.

<sup>d</sup> Gibb. cod. 822.

<sup>e</sup> 3 Rep. 75. Co. Litt. 103. 300.

<sup>f</sup> pag. 112, 113.