



N^o 12.

LA CONVOCATION DU CLERGÉ ANGLICAN¹.

(King William's commission to the bishops, empowering them to hold a convocation of the clergy).

William the Third, etc., etc.,

To the most reverend father in God, our right trusty and entirely beloved counsellor, Thomas lord archbishop of Canterbury, primate of all England and metropolitan : and to the most reverend father in God, John, lord archbishop of York, primate of England and metropolitan : and

¹ L'original de ce curieux document est dans les mains du docteur Edward Tenison, archi-diacre de Caermarthen.

to the right reverend fathers in God, Gilbert, lord bishop of Sarum; William, lord bishop of Worcester; Simon, lord bishop of Ely, and John, lord bishop of Norwich, greeting:—We, being sensible that nothing can conduce more to the glory of God, our own honour, and the welfare of the church, than our promoting to preferment therein the most worthy and deserving men according to their merits: and conceiving you the said Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury; John, lord archbishop of York; Gilbert, lord bishop of Sarum; William, lord bishop of Worcester; Simon, lord bishop of Ely, and John, lord bishop of Norwich, to be proper and competent judges in such cases: Know ye therefore, that we, reposing special trust and confidence in your approved wisdoms, fidelities and circumspections, have nominated, constituted, ordained, and appointed, and by these presents do nominate, constitute, ordain, and appoint you the said Thomas lord archbishop of Canterbury, etc., etc.; to be our commissioners for the purposes hereinafter mentioned: And we do he-

reby give and grant unto you our said commissioners, or any three or more of you, (where of we will that you the said Thomas, lord archbishop, etc. to be always one, and where any preferment or place to be disposed of lies within the province of York, you the said Thomas, lord archbishop of York, to be also one,) full power and authority to meet at such convenient times and places as you the said Thomas, lord archbishop of Canterbury shall, by your summons of the rest of our said commissioners, from time to time appoint, for the putting the powers hereby granted in execution, in such manner as is hereby appointed : And we do hereby declare our will and pleasure to be, that when our royal person shall be resident within our Kingdom of England, you do at such meetings consider of one or more person or persons proper to be recommended to us to succeed to any bishopric in England, or any other ecclesiastical preferments in England above the tax or real value of twenty pounds in our books which are in our gift or disposal, from time to

time as they shall respectively become vacant during our residence within our said Kingdom of England : And that you, or a sufficient number of you, empowered as aforesaid, do signify under your hands your recommendation of such person or persons as you in your wisdoms shall think most fit to be appointed by us to succeed to any such vacant preferments, to the end that the names of such person and persons may be presented to us by one of our principal secretaries of State, that our royal pleasure may be further known therein ¹.

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Witness ourself at Westminster, the ninth day of may, in the twelfth year of our reign.

Per breve de privato sigillo,

CHUTE.

¹ On trouve la continuation de cette lettre dans le savant livre de M. Arthur Trevor, *Life and Times of William the Third*, etc. Vol. II, Appendix, p. 480.