

54, f. 392.

33. *Protestations of Allegiance.**

I.

A forme of submission exhibited to her Ma^{tie} of Englande by the pryestes & Catholiques of the same nation.

We Englishe pryestes & other Catholiques of England promise, protest and sweare in the presence & handes of, etc., that we are and euer wilbe most humble subiectes & servauntes of Quene Elizabeth, o^r soueraigne, redye to render her al due obedience and fidelitye, and we doe and euer shal acknowledge her for o^r soueraigne & mystres. And we protest and sweare lykewise that we wyll houlde no Intellicence wth eny prince, potentate or other estate or particuler

* There are two other forms of such protestations or oaths of allegiance preserved among the Petyt MSS. (54. 233 and 54. 396), which it is not necessary to reproduce here. They are both drafts of "The Protestation of Allegiance made by Thirteen Missioners to Queen Elizabeth," printed by Tierney (vol. iii. clxxxvii.) from the MS. of the old "Dean and Chapter," and which he describes (p. 55) as "an admirable address drawn up by Dr. William Bishop," Jan. 31, 1603. The first (54. 233) has no signature, and is endorsed "A form of Submission of Mr. Clarke's hand," as if it was the composition rather of Francis Clark than of Dr. Bishop. There is another endorsement, not, however, certainly connected with this document, in a hand resembling Gifford's: "ffrom Mr. Watson ye viii of June 1602." The second draft (54. 396) is more curious, as it seems to have passed under the revising hand of Dr. Gifford, who has appended to it the names of fifteen subscribers. The two additional names at the end of the list are Michael Wood and Walter Hassals, who perhaps withdrew their adhesion at the last moment. The text in its final shape is almost identical with the actual form presented to the Queen, but after the words of the opening sentence "faith and loyalty of us . . . secular priests" there appear *erased* the words, "more than she findeth by the Jesuits and their adherents." In another place a few insignificant words, in what appears to be Dr. Gifford's hand, are added to the draft, and these appear in Tierney's printed text. Although in its ultimate form the Protestation of the thirteen priests refers to, and appears to be occasioned by the Queen's Proclamation of Nov. 5, 1602, it is not unlikely that it was in substance prepared many months before; for Dr. Cecil writes from Paris to Watson, Feb. 1602, "we have conceived here an oath of obedience" (p. 183 *supra*). The two short and moderate forms which here follow have not been printed before.

person whatsoever in præiudice of the dignitie, authoritie, or person Royal of her Ma^{tie} or her estate.

II.

38, f. 168.

I A:B: doe acknowledge in my conscience and confesse vnfeynedly that the Quenes most excellent Ma^{tie} Q: Elizabeth, now in possession of the Crowne of this Realme, is the true, vndoubted and lawfull Quene of England and Ireland: and that accordingly all the people and subiectes of England and Ireland, of what degree or callinge so ever they be, ought and are bound by the word of God faithfully to serve, honor, and obey her Highnes, as theyr only true, vndoubted and lawfull soveraigne Quene: notwthstanding any forayne or domesticall power, p^rheminance or authoritie, or any doctrine, opinion or writinge, that eyther hath already or that shall hereafter affirme, comaund or teach the contrarye. And furthermore albeyt the B: of Rome for the tyme beinge doe or shall hereafter attempt (eyther by any bull or sentence made, given, or to be made given or published by himselfe or in his owne name, or by force of any former bull or sentence pretended to be already made, given, denounced and published by any of his predecessors) to pronounce, declare or publish, or suffer to be denounced, declared or published, that her Ma^{tie} is, or ought to be, deprived of her kingdome, and so consequently no true and lawfull Quene of England and Ireland; and that the subiectes and people of these lands, are discharged of theyr allegiance, and obedience vnto her highnes; and in like manner, although the sayd B: of Rome or any other by his apointment or authoritie, or by the apointment or authority of any other, shall invade eyther the Realme of England or Ireland, or shall attempte by force of Armes, to overthrow the present estate of his kingdome, or of the religion now professed and established by her Ma^{ties} lawes and ordinanc[es], whether it be vnder colo^r of the restitution of the Romish religion, or vnder what other pretence so ever it be: yet notwthstanding I

doe acknowledge myselfe bound in my conscience, to take parte wth her Ma^{tie} against all such persons and theyr forces. And therefore I doe vnfeynedly professe and affirme, that I will ever be redye, wth my body and goodes, to wthstande to myne vttermost power and abilitye any such forcible and violent attemptes wth the like faith and true allegiance that becometh all dutifull and faithfull subiectes of any other Christian prince to wthstande any enemye that shall seeke by force of Armes, of malice and wthowt iust cause, to invade or assalt any of theyr possessions, dominyons or Contreyes. And all these pointes I acknowledge, confesse, affirme and professe, so helpe me God.

Endorsed : An othe of Allegiance thought vpoⁿ by some Catholickes,