

Petition drawn up by Edmund Miller, lay-fellow and Counsellor of the College

*“To the Right Reverend Father in God, JOHN Lord Bishop of Ely, Visitor of Trinity Colledge, in Cambridg, upon the Fortieth Chapter of the Colledge Statutes, entitled De Magistri (si res exigat) amotione, The Humble Petition and Complaint of the Vice-Master, Senior Fellows, and many of the Doctors in Divinity, and Masters of Arts, Fellows and Members of the Colledge of the Holy and undivided Trinity, in the University of Cambridg, of King Henry the Eighth’s foundation, in behalf of themselves and the rest of the Members of the said Colledge, against Richard Bentley, Doctor in Divinity, now Master thereof,*

“Shew,

“That the Fellows and all the members of the said Colledge having for many years lived with a great respect and love to their former Masters, and in a perfect amity one with another, In the year of our Lord God 1700, when the said Dr. Bentley first came to be their Master, the peace of the said Colledge was soon disturbed, by his demanding and taking of the said Colledge several unusual and great sums of money, which he applied to his own use:

And almost every year since by his continual making new demands of profits and perquisites for himself; and by his taking and threatening to take away, sometimes with the forced consent of the governing part of the Colledge, and sometimes without any consent at all, several known privileges and perquisites from the rest of the Colledge in general, and even fellowships and scholarships from several in particular; and by his threatening and assuming to inflict several unstatutable and (before his time) unheard-of punishments upon several of the Fellows, for no other reason but because he heard they talked against his proceedings:

And by his using violent and unworthy methods, whereby he has prevailed with some few of the Colledge to espouse his separate interest, the peace of this Royal and ample foundation has not only for many years been wholly broken, but the statutes have been violated, and the goods of the Colledge wasted, and many of the Fellows reduced to great necessity by his lessening the value of their fellowships, which were before but very small.

Nevertheless, the Fellows and members of the said Colledge, out of a peaceable disposition, and being persuaded by the said Dr. Bentley’s fair promises, which he constantly made upon his gaining every new advantage, that they should enjoy peace and quietness for the future, and out of respect to those that made him their Master, though they could not be wholly silent, they were unwilling publicly to complain to their superiours; till now again this last year the said Dr. Bentley not only making another exorbitant demand of profits to himself, but in order thereunto, endeavouring

to make and alteration almost throughout the whole College in their dividends and dues, whereby they are maintained, and which they and their predecessors have for many years enjoyed, and that in a partial manner, and by such methods as are before mentioned;

We are necessitated at this time to petition and complain to your Lordship, promising within a convenient time to lay before you, in such method as you shall appoint, the several particulars, wherein the truth of what is here alledged will manifestly appear:

Humbly craving, in due time, such sentence as to your Lordship's wisdom and justice shall seem meet."

Feb. 6, 1709.

WOLFRAN STUBBE, D.D. and Vice-Master

EDMUND MILLER, M.A.

P. COCK, Sen. Fellow.

JA. BRABOURN, B.D.

GEO. MODD, Sen. Fellow.

L. BRODRICK, D.D.

EDW. BATHURST, Sen. Fel.

RALPH WELSTEAD, M.A.

NAT. RASHLEIGH, Sen. Fel.

RI. STOKES, M.A. *gave his consent by letter*

THOS. SMITH, D.D., Sen. Fel.

WILLIAM WADE, M.A. *"I desire the same that is mentioned by Dr. Colbatch."*

JOHN COOPER, B.D.

GRIFFITH WILLIAMS, B.D. *"I desire the same that is mentioned by Dr. Colbatch."*

NAT. HANBURY, B.D.

JOHN LAUGHTON, *by his consent by letter.*

SAMUEL WHITE, M.A.

STEPHEN CRESSAR, D.D.

WILL. CHAMBERLAIN, M.A.

ABRA. JORDAN, M.A.

JO. CRAISTER, M.A.

WILLIAM DRURY, M.A.

EDM. STUBBE, M.A.

MAT. BARWELL, M.A.

JO. PARIS, M.A.

JOHN COLBATCH, D.D. *"I desire that all matters mentioned in this petition may be referred to the cognizance and determination of my Lord the Bishop of Ely."*

THO. BLOMER, M.A.

CONYERS MIDDLETON, M.A.

WILLIAM AYLOFF, L.L.D

JOHN FELTON, M.A.