

5. No tenant in chief of the king or officer of his household shall be excommunicated, or his lands be placed under an interdict, unless the king, if in the country, be first consulted, or, in the king's absence, the lord justice.

6. Appeal shall be from the archdeacon to the bishop, from the bishop to the archbishop. If the archbishop shall fail to do justice, the case shall be brought before the king in such manner that the question shall be decided, by the king's order, in the archbishop's court, and shall be carried no further without the king's consent.

7. On the vacancy of any archbishopric, bishopric, abbey, or priory in the king's dominion, the estates shall be in the king's hand, and when provision has to be made to fill the vacancy the king shall summon the chief persons of the Church, and the election shall be in the king's chapel, with the assent of the king and by the advice of those whom he shall have called together for the purpose; and the elect shall do homage to the king as to his liege lord, for life and limb and for his temporal honours, saving his order, before he shall be consecrated.¹

The sixth article the king afterwards explained away. It was one of the most essential, but he was unable to maintain it; and he was rash, or he was ill-advised, in raising a second question, on which the pope would naturally be sensitive, before he had disposed of the first. On the original subject

¹ The Constitutions were seventeen in all. The articles in the text are an epitome of those which the Church found most objectionable, and all of which, with the exception of the fourth, were condemned by the pope.