

men of the king's party. He cursed Justiciary de Luci, who had directed the sequestration of his see, and was the author and adviser of the Constitutions of Clarendon. He cursed Ranulf de Broc and every person employed in administering his estates. Finally he cursed every one who maintained the Constitutions, and he released the bishops from their promise to observe them. A remnant of prudence or a report of the king's illness led him partially to withhold his hand. He did not actually curse Henry, but he threatened that he shortly would curse him unless he repented.

In high delight with himself the archbishop issued a pastoral to the bishops of England telling them what he had done, talking in his usual high style of the rights of priests over kings and princes, and ordering them at their soul's peril to see that the sentence was obeyed. He wrote at the same time to the pope, enclosing the terms of the excommunication, his condemnation of the Constitutions, and the threats which he had addressed to the king. These threats he declared his intention of carrying into effect unless the king showed speedy signs of submission, and he required Alexander, in a tone of imperious consequence, to confirm what he had done.